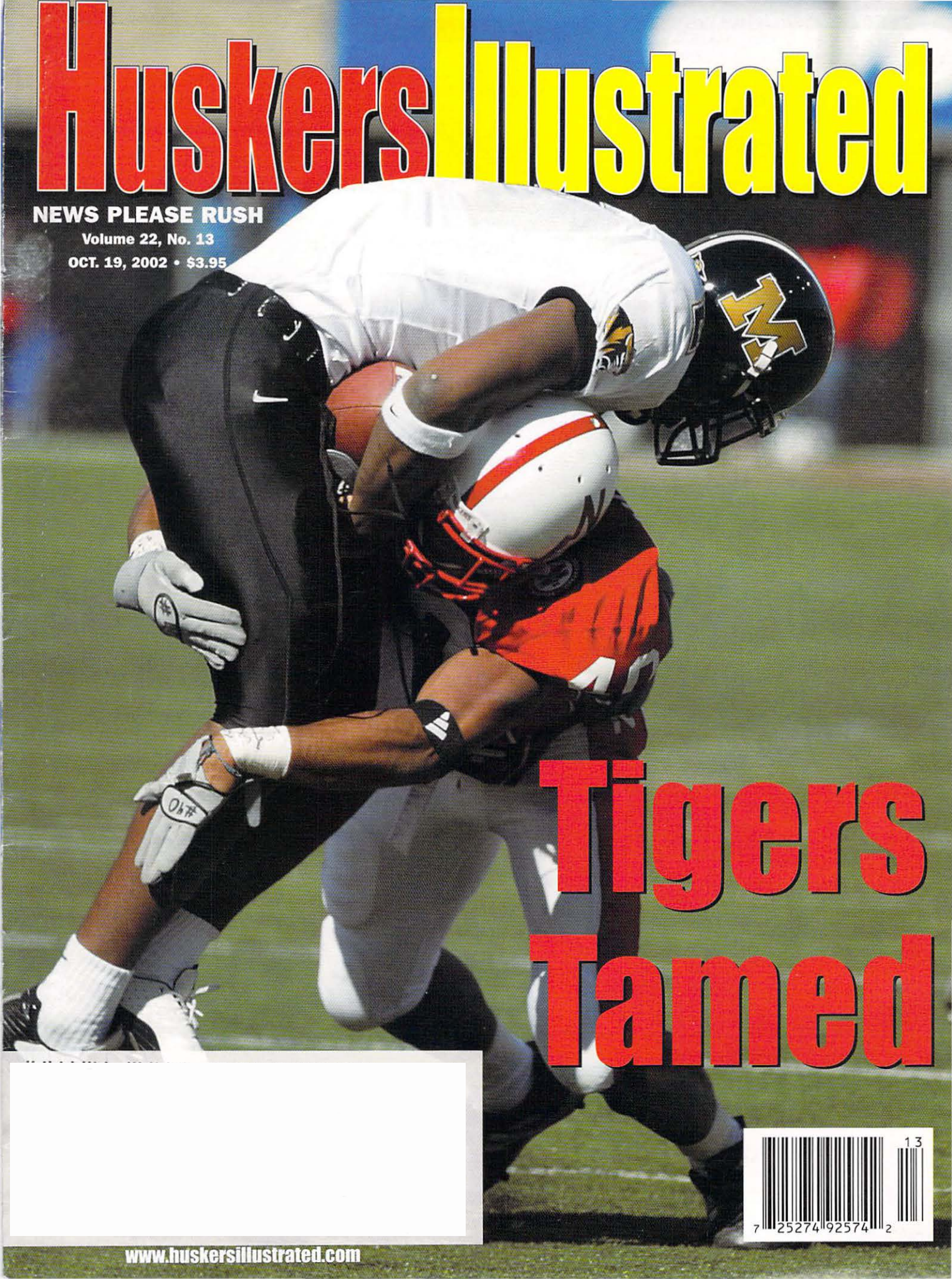


Huskers Illustrated

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Volume 22, No. 13

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*After improved performance at home,
Huskers have to show they can win on the road*



**Brian
HILL**

JAMMAL LORD proved himself in the McNeese State game. The Nebraska defense proved itself in the second half of the Missouri game.

Now the Huskers must prove they can win on the road.

Back-to-back wins at home have appeared to do wonders for this team's confidence, but memories still linger of the blowout losses in the only two road games.

Whichever Oklahoma State team Nebraska faces this week — the one that played Texas down to the wire in Austin before losing 17-15 or the one that Kansas State dominated 44-9 in Manhattan — it badly needs a road victory heading into the stretch run, which begins the following week at Texas A&M and continues Nov. 2 when Texas comes to Lincoln.

If the Huskers continue to improve, this can still be a very good season, and the nine-win streak can continue, but it won't be easy. Four of the remaining six opponents are or have been rated, and this team still has a long way to go.

The positive signs continued in a 24-13 victory over Missouri, a game that many thought the Huskers could lose, after seeing the Tigers push No. 2 Oklahoma to the limit the previous week.

Nebraska overcame adversity in the form of a fumble on its first play from scrimmage, rallied from a 6-point deficit and took control behind an inspired performance by the defense in

the second half.

The Huskers limited the Tigers, who came in averaging 441.4 yards per game, to two first downs and 28 total yards in the second half.

And highly touted quarterback Brad Smith, who looked like a thoroughbred against Oklahoma, looked slow and was rattled by the Blackshirts' relentless pursuit.

Smith, who had 391 total yards (213 rushing) the week before against Oklahoma, was limited to 157 yards of total offense, including

only 34 rushing.

"They had guys everywhere I went, and they did a great job of covering our receivers," he said. "We needed to make adjustments on the field, and we didn't do that."

"Nebraska brought pressure from everywhere, and they did a great job of occupying the guys in the offensive line, which enabled them to bring guys

from different directions."

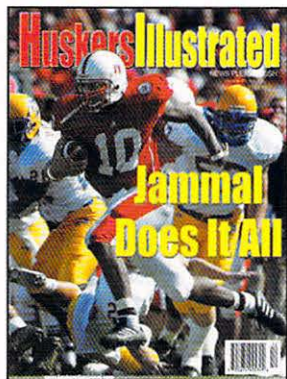
You can read more about the Nebraska defense's performance and how it prepared for Missouri in this edition of Huskers Illustrated.

Our main feature takes a look at the Nebraska scout team and its role in practice. The subjects of our player profile are twins Daniel and Josh Bullocks. Our series on Nebraska's assistants continues with a look at Dan Young, who is in his 20th year working with the kickers and offensive line.

We also take a look ahead at Oklahoma State, which has been at least as unpredictable and inconsistent as the Huskers this season.

And this Nebraska team is definitely a work in progress.

"I was pleased with a lot of aspects of the game, but we still have work to do in a lot of areas," Nebraska Coach Frank Solich said after victory No. 5. "We'll go back Monday to make sure we get some areas cleaned up." ■



ON THE COVER

Nebraska rover Lannie Hopkins makes the stop on Missouri wide receiver Justin Gage after a 1-yard gain. Photo by Scott Bruhn

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Dan Young was looking for a job recommendation from Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne, and he ended up with a job. *By Mike Babcock*

Looking at Options

Even though he places the chances of his playing again at only "50-50," Eric Crouch hasn't given up on football. After he takes time off to get healthy and be with his family, he'll consider returning to professional football, either in the NFL or in Canada.

"I could be playing next year if I wanted to," he said during a news conference in the South Stadium post-game interview room on the Thursday before the Nebraska-McNeese State game.

"I want to leave that door open."

Crouch closed the door, at least temporarily, in mid-September when he left the St. Louis Rams, for what he said were health reasons. He reiterated that at the news conference.

"A lot of people are skeptical why I did this," he said.

But injuries hampered his attempt to switch from quarterback to wide receiver. "It was just too hard to continue the way I was feeling," he said. "There's really nothing else that took me away from the game. I need to gather my thoughts and get my health back to where it needs to be."

Crouch was scheduled for arthroscopic surgery on his left ankle on the Friday before the Missouri game. He also suffered from a deep thigh bruise, shin splints and a pulled hamstring.

"The injuries were probably more serious than I thought," he said.

The move to wide receiver also was a serious consideration for last season's Heisman Trophy winner and Nebraska's career total offense leader. Crouch, a third-round draft pick, knew the Rams weren't interested in him as a quarterback. "I never did think that was an option," he said.

"The Rams from the get-go said it wasn't a possibility."

However, his brief experience with the Rams convinced him "receiver was not for me. My best football is when the ball is in my hands and when I have some control over what happens," he said. "I had to learn it the tough way, the hard way. If I play



Former Husker Eric Crouch was recognized as an inductee into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame at the Troy State game Aug. 31.

again, it will definitely be as a quarterback.

"I feel that my calling in football is to be under center."

Crouch said he waited to address his decision to leave the Rams because of "a lot of legal issues" and the fact that he wanted time to "gather my thoughts and talk to my family."

"The timing worked out perfectly," he said.

He returned the money from a \$1.3 million contract, with a \$395,000 signing bonus. "It was an easy decision for me to give the money back," he said. "I never played football because of the money. The money was not

important to me. The game was important to me, enjoying it."

His settlement with the Rams as well as other financial considerations will enable him to "be fine for a year or two, not in a bind where I need to get a job right now," he said.

He has sought non-football career advice from "a lot of successful people in the state of Nebraska. I'm really just looking at all the options that are out there for me," he said.

Crouch, who has a degree in exercise science, was asked if he had considered coaching as a career possibility. "I have given that thought," he said. "It would be an exciting thing to do."

"I've been around coaches my entire life, so that could be a route, too."

If he were to play again, it would either have to be with the Rams or they would have to give him a release. They retain his rights in perpetuity, after placing him on the reserve-retired list.

Though brief, he described his experience with the Rams as "wonderful. I would like to personally thank (Coach) Mike Martz for giving me that opportunity," said Crouch.

Would the Rams welcome him back, however?

"I really don't know the answer to that," he said.

If he were to return to football, he would have to do so in the next year or two.

"I'm at that crossroads right now," he said. "If I never played again, I'd be OK with that. I could see that at this point. Right now, that's how I feel. I've kind of withdrawn my life from (football)."

However, "I'm definitely not ruling out a return to football," he said. "If I hadn't had the injuries, I'd be playing. The injuries are what pulled me away from enjoying it anymore."

As for those who say he quit? "I've really never been a quitter," Crouch said.

"I knew I'd get that question today." ■

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Jammal Lord received a vote of confidence from Eric Crouch on the Thursday before the McNeese State game. "It's always tough to get a new quarterback in the system," Crouch said.

"Jammal is a big-play guy in my mind. It just takes time."

Also, Lord was confronted with two big road games early in his first season as a starter, and "a lot of us didn't have to face that right away," said Crouch. Even so, "there were growing pains when I was here. We lost four games (when he was a freshman) and got over that."

Nebraska was 9-4 in Crouch's first season, and 12-1 in his second.

TOP 20

Nebraska was No. 17 in Sports Illustrated's rankings of 324 NCAA Division I athletic programs. The magazine's rankings, which were based on several factors including intramural and club sports as well as varsity sports and athlete graduation rates, were published in the Oct. 7 issue.

Texas was No. 1 with Stanford No. 2. Oklahoma and Colorado were the only other Big 12 schools among the top 40. Oklahoma was third and Colorado was 14th.

Nebraska's capsule reads: "Top 10 in baseball, football, four women's sports; flag-FB hotbed; one bogey: Johnny Carson's alma mater dead last in Big 12 golf."

HAT BACK & AN APOLOGY

A red felt hat with a white "N" on it was returned to Cornhusker fan Jim Murphy of Norfolk, two weeks after it was knocked off his head and taken following the Penn State game.

The 61-year-old Murphy had worn the hat to Nebraska football games for 32 years. It was returned, anonymously, to the Penn State student newspaper, which sent it back to Murphy.

The rude treatment Cornhusker fans received at Penn State led to an official apology from Penn State president Graham Spanier and athletic director Tim Curley.

The apology was sent to newspapers in Nebraska.

"On behalf of Penn State University, we would like to apologize to Nebraska visitors for the unruly behavior of some of our fans during last week's game. Penn State, like Nebraska, has long prided itself on being a place that is welcoming and cordial to all fans. The bad behavior of a few Penn Staters was truly unfortunate. To those who were confronted with that bad behavior, you have the profound and sincere apologies of all of us in the Penn State family. We hope that this one bad experience will not deter you from once again returning to visit us, where we are confident you will find a much more typical and welcoming Penn State environment."

RESERVATIONS ELSEWHERE

Because of university budget cuts the Nebraska football team will have to find a new place to stay on Friday nights before home games. The Cornhuskers have stayed at the Clifford Hardin Center on the university's East Campus for years. But the center is slated to be closed because of the cuts. ■

QUICK HITS

What's Happening In Nebraska Athletics?

AS GOOD AS ADVERTISED

True freshman Fabian Washington has made a rapid rise on the depth chart, and that hasn't come as a surprise. He was projected as one of the 2002 recruits who would play without redshirting.

Washington has "great speed and change of direction," defensive coordinator Craig Bohl said after Washington earned his first start against McNeese State. "The other thing is, he's got very good ball skills, and that lends itself to becoming a very good corner, the type of guy we need in our system."

"To play as a true freshman is not easy to do."

Washington missed a week because of a death in the family, "so he's still on a learning curve," said Bohl. "But we felt like after reviewing the tape, it's his time to step up and play more."



F. Washington

Senior cornerback DeJuan Groce gave Washington, perhaps, the highest praise, comparing him to former Cornhusker Keyuo Craver. Not only does Washington wear a No. 3 jersey like Craver, but also "he's that athletic to go out there and play, especially as a true freshman," Groce said.

Craver also played without redshirting.

"You can tell his confidence is getting higher and higher," said Groce.

Washington is fearless, a quality indispensable to a cornerback. "He's not afraid to go after the ball. If he misses it, oh well, he's going to try to make a tackle," Groce said.

"That's what I like about him. He's not scared when he's out there."

Washington has "a lot of raw talent," said Groce. "Whew! I don't know what he's going to do after a couple of years. He's a great commodity to our team."

Less than a year ago, Washington was playing high school football in Bradenton, Fla.

"The next thing you know, he's out there playing big-time football," Bohl said.

"You're seeing more and more of that in college football. What we need to do, and what we're doing as a defensive staff is identifying our best players. And as they're maturing, we're playing those guys more."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Jerry Moore, Nebraska's wide receivers coach from 1973 to 1978, became the winningest football coach in Southern Conference history earlier this season when his Appalachian State team defeated The Citadel 37-28. Moore is in his 14th season at Appalachian State, a Division I-AA school.

"It's a long way from Nebraska, but we've gotten where we are because of the things I learned at Nebraska from Tom Osborne and Bob Devaney," Moore told the Lincoln Journal Star.

Moore, who also has been a head coach at North Texas and Texas Tech, and George Darlington were the first two assistants Osborne hired when he succeeded Devaney as coach in 1973.

HAUNTED HOOPS

Coach Barry Collier's Nebraska men's basketball team will hold its second annual Husker Haunted Hoops on Oct. 30, prior to an intrasquad scrimmage at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

There will be activities for children on the concourse level prior to the scrimmage, including trick or treating and a best costume contest. Afterward, players will sign autographs and pose for pictures.

The Rebounders Club will sponsor "A Night with the Huskers" fund raiser at the Sports Center on Nov. 8. The event is open to the public, with tickets selling for \$50. The fund raiser will include a tour of the remodeled locker rooms and coaches' offices.

The men's and women's basketball teams begin practicing on Oct. 12.

BASEBALL RECRUITS

Tony Watson, a left-handed pitcher from Dallas Center-Grimes High School in Iowa, and Josh Odell, a shortstop from Hutchinson, Kan., Community College, have given oral commitments to new Nebraska baseball coach Mike Anderson, according to the Lincoln Journal Star.

SOFTBALL SUCCESS

Coach Rhonda Revelle's Husker women's softball team finished the fall season with a 15-1 record in exhibition games. Huskers Peaches James and Kim Ogee were among those who tried out for USA softball National Training Team and are still candidates for the 2003 Pan American Games team. ■

Difficult Decision

Freshman I-back Horne knows he's taking a chance by giving up his redshirt



Mike BABCOCK

WHEN DAVID HORNE BEGAN practice in late July, he expected to redshirt.

The freshman I-back figured he would probably play on the scout team, adjusting to the college game, and work hard in the weight room to get stronger. And that would have been fine.

"I would rather have sat out, honestly," he said.

On the Monday after the Iowa State game, however, Horne was told he would be shedding his redshirt and playing, as the No. 2 I-back, against McNeese State. He would be, that is, if he wanted to.

The decision would be his. And he would have until the end of the week to decide. "It's not really a set thing yet," he told a small group of reporters after practice that Tuesday.

"But as of right now, I am going to play in the game."

The decision wasn't easy. Even though Horne is as competitive as the next guy, he had already sat out at least a third of the season, five games, and he would be playing behind senior Dahrran Diedrick, who led the Big 12 in rushing as a junior with 1,299 yards, and possibly others.

Counting him, Nebraska has eight I-backs on scholarship, although DeAntae Grixby is playing fullback for now. So Horne might have opted to wait until the number was six. Diedrick and Thunder Collins, who was reinstated after a four-game suspension that same week, are seniors.

Horne remained firm in his decision, however.

It was, in part, a matter of trust. The coaches told him it wouldn't be a "one-time thing. It's supposed to be an on-going process, they're hoping for the rest of the year," Horne said.

"I'm taking a big chance here, giving up my redshirt. So they say this might be kind of permanent. If I perform to my abilities, then this will be an on-going thing for the rest of the year."

Quarterback Jammal Lord, who rushed for 218 yards and broke the school single-game record for total offense with 369 yards against McNeese State, overshadowed Horne's debut. Nevertheless, it was more than acceptable, and reason for optimism about the future of the I-back position.

In his first game, Horne carried 12 times for 81 yards, an ironically appropriate total given the fact that the Cornhuskers managed only 81 rushing yards (on 30 carries) as a team at Iowa State.

Diedrick was the leading rusher, with 28 yards.

That poor team performance prompted Coach Frank Solich to reconsider Horne's status.

"To say that we had an I-back line up this past Saturday and get something done big-time for us, that did not happen," Solich said during his weekly news conference the following Tuesday.

There were other factors that contributed to Nebraska's inability to run the ball against Iowa State, but he had to get the best running back, or combination of running backs, on the field, said Solich.

Horne would get a chance because he had "shown well in practice. He handles the ball very well and has very good hands. He is a very smart football player and a very fluid football player."

He has run the 40-yard dash in an electronically timed 4.47 seconds.

"Probably my strength is maybe my speed and my hands," said Horne.

He was a high-profile recruit from Omaha Central, the high school that produced three of the Cornhuskers' top 10 career rushers — Ahman Green, Calvin Jones and Keith Jones — as well as Gale Sayers. He led Nebraska's large-schools class with 1,467 rushing yards and 22 touchdowns last season.

He also had 298 receiving yards and was a Rivals.com All-American.

Michigan, Colorado, Notre Dame, Iowa State and Iowa all were on Horne's short list.

He took snaps with the top unit prior to the opener against Arizona State. After the season began, however, "I was more with the twos (second team) and the scout team," he said.

He was among seven true freshmen that suited up for the opener, but he didn't make the trips to Penn State or Iowa State, a good indication that he would sit out the season as a redshirt.

Unlike some freshmen, Horne seems comfortable around reporters. When he was asked if he might be the big-play threat at I-back that the Cornhuskers have lacked this season, following practice on the Tuesday Solich announced he would play, teammate Patrick Kabongo walked past.

"Ohhh, leading question," Kabongo said as Horne considered an answer.

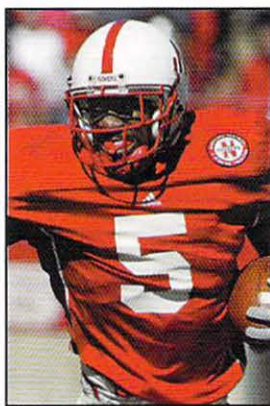
Horne smiled at Kabongo's remark. "I'm going to try," he said.

"I'm going out there and hopefully be able to do that."

Ultimately, the decision to redshirt or not was no decision at all.

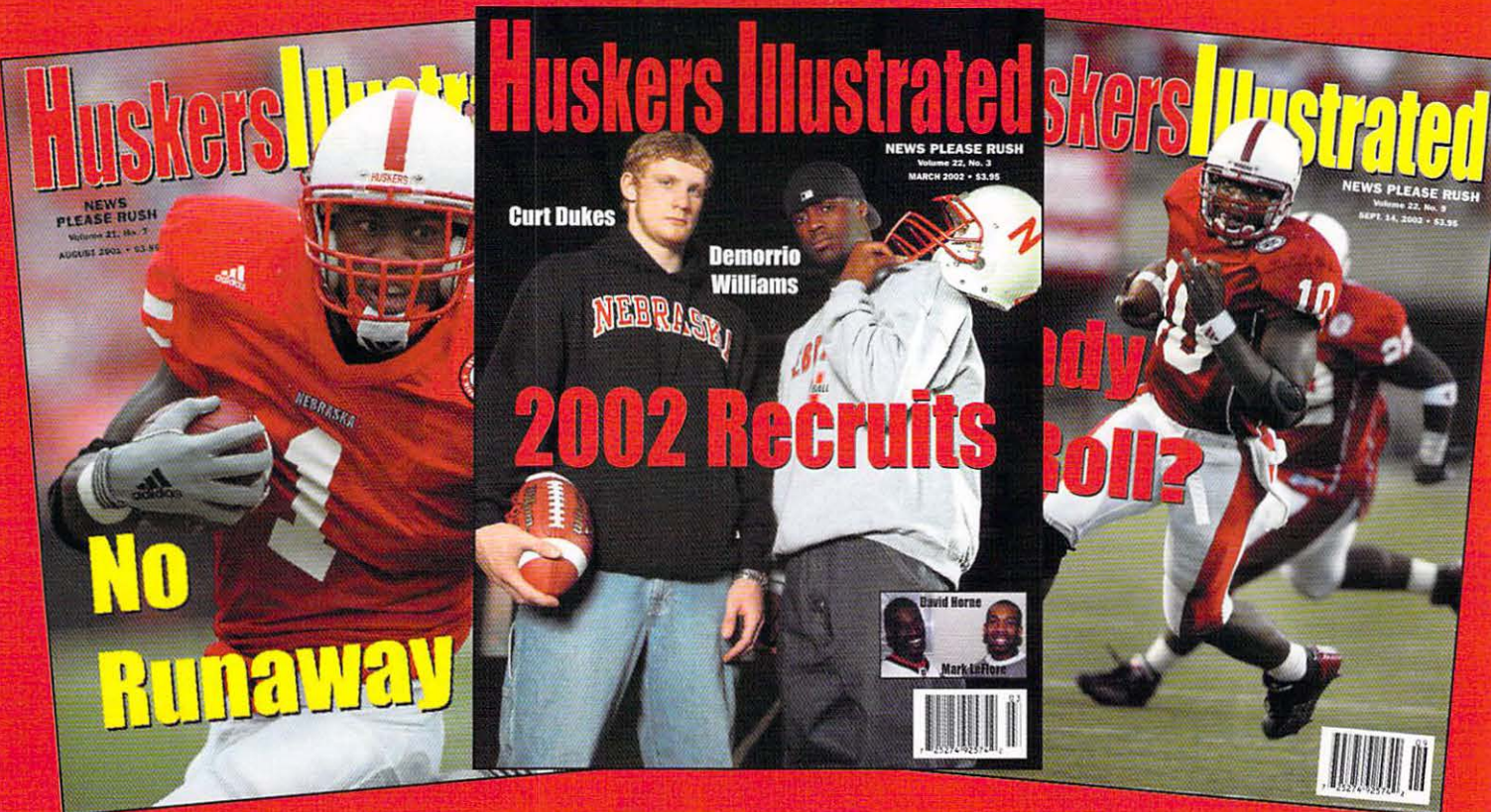
"I'm a team player," he said. "I've got to do whatever for the team, step up to the plate."

The early returns are in, and it appears that he has. ■



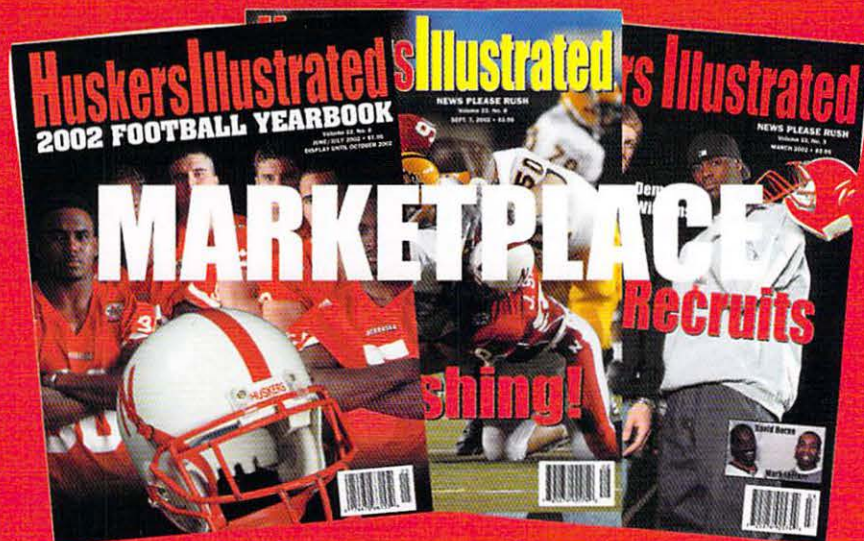
In his first game, David Horne carried 12 times for 81 yards.

All Huskers ...



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... All The Time

Sometimes, He Wondered

Former Husker center Raiola tried not to look back during a difficult rookie season in the NFL



**Terry
DOUGLASS**

WHEN DOMINIC RAIOLA decided to pass up his final season at Nebraska to enter the NFL draft, he vowed to himself that he'd never look back.

As it turned out, the former Cornhusker center never realized just how difficult keeping the promise would be. With much of his rookie season in 2001 spent either playing on special teams or coming in off the bench in mop-up duty for the hapless

Detroit Lions, Raiola now admits he might have taken a few sneak peeks at what was going on with the Big Red back in Lincoln.

"I told myself I'd never look back on my decision, but I did," Raiola said. "I did look back and see that they were really playing well. Then, when they went to the national championship, that was probably the hardest time last year for me, knowing that I could've been a part of it."

Following his junior year at Nebraska in 2000, Raiola was faced with one of the toughest decisions of his life. Teammates and fans urged him to stay for one more season and make another run at a national title. Certainly, the Huskers could've used Raiola, who won the Dave Rimington Award and was also a consensus All-American and a finalist for the Lombardi Award and Outland Trophy.

Ultimately, Raiola opted to play for pay on Sundays. He was selected as the 50th pick overall in the second round of the 2001 NFL draft by Detroit. The Honolulu native reportedly signed a 4-year, \$2.7 million contract including an option year and \$1.3 million in reporting and option bonuses.

But he said the money and the NFL lifestyle couldn't replace the good times he enjoyed as Nebraska's brash center with the never-quit engine and a flair for making pancakes on the gridiron. Raiola attempted to casually follow the 2001 Huskers by watching games on TV and going online to read stories about his former team, but there were times when he simply had to back away.

With Nebraska starting its season 11-0 and headed for a berth in the Rose Bowl to play Miami for the national championship, it would've been easy for Raiola to wonder about what might have been. Sometimes, he did.

"I missed it, but I tried to never ever look back," Raiola said. "Every time I thought about looking back, I always put my foot down and said, 'I'm going forward.'"

"Sometimes, I couldn't watch games just because of that. Sometimes I was on the Internet looking up articles, and sometimes I had to shut the computer off."

Things are going much better for 6-foot-1, 295-pound Raiola now. He's another year removed from the Nebraska football program, and he's become the starting center for

the Lions. That alone makes life much more enjoyable as Raiola never was much for sitting on the bench.

"I think that's what made last year so tough," Raiola said. "I was watching Detroit play, and then I was watching Nebraska play, knowing that I could have been playing somewhere (for the Huskers). It wasn't easy."

Raiola, 23, returned to Nebraska Oct. 5 to watch the Huskers' 38-14 win over McNeese State, taking advantage of a bye week. During a halftime ceremony he became just the 15th player in Husker football history to have his jersey retired as a sellout Memorial Stadium crowd offered its applause.

"It was real exciting," Raiola said. "It's such an honor to come back here to the University, knowing that I had left a good mark here and knowing that they appreciated it. It's an honor."

So far this season, Raiola has watched several of Nebraska's games on TV, including the losses to Penn State and Iowa State.

"I was hurting for them," Raiola said. "I felt bad for the players, and I felt for the coaches, but I knew it wasn't because they didn't want to win. I know they want to."

Raiola has also felt for the players on Nebraska's offensive line, who have taken plenty of criticism from fans and college football analysts alike. Raiola knows the feeling. As the starting center when the Huskers struggled to run the ball during back-to-back outings in 1999 against California and Southern Mississippi, he remembers taking some heat.

"You're always going to get criticized when something is going wrong," Raiola said. "The line is the first set of guys they go to, but it just takes a little time. If it takes losses, then it takes losses, but it looks like they're doing a little better job. It's not easy and it's not easy to gel as a unit when you've got a lot of young guys in there."

Even though he's been out of the program for a while, Raiola said he knows some of the Nebraska linemen pretty well. During the offseason, he stayed in a house with several Husker linemen, including redshirt freshman Richie Incognito.

Although Incognito plays tackle, his style of play has been compared to Raiola's. Against Penn State, Incognito was ejected for getting into a scuffle — something that Raiola was sometimes prone to do early in his college career.

"I think you need that emotion, but you also need to control it at times," Raiola said. "I'm not one to say because I lost it sometimes, but you just need to control it and get better. I just told Richie that every week he's going to mature more, get better, and it will come." ■



Dominick Raiola had his jersey retired on Oct. 5.

Terry Douglass is the sports editor of the Grand Island Independent. He can be reached at tdbdouglass@netzero.net.

Caught In Between

Colorado Coach Barnett says no one is immune from the situation Nebraska is in



Curt McKEEVER

BY AND LARGE, Nebraska fans kept their senses after the loss at Penn State last month.

But when the Huskers fell at Iowa State — marking the first time they'd dropped back-to-back regular-season games since 1976 and ending their remarkable streak of having been in the Associated Press poll since 1981 — the venom flew.

Even for the most understanding of fans, the realization of what had hit the Big Red Nation was hard to swallow.

An author of one of the more-reasonable e-mails I received after the Iowa State game ended with a quote from former NU linebacker Ed Stewart, then noted that it would be the last time he'd be using it.

"Nebraska is still Nebraska. Kansas State is still Kansas State."

Indeed, the Wildcats — 4-0 and gearing up for a pivotal Big 12 North Division contest at Colorado — seemed to have more going for them.

The same week, the Huskers were making numerous personnel changes and trying to right their ship.

In uncharted waters, no one knew where they'd end up sailing.

Perhaps the main reason for so much alarm was Nebraska fans never thought the Huskers could look so helpless.

Colorado Coach Gary Barnett, who still labeled Iowa State's win a big upset, understands.

"I think Nebraska, they're just caught, right now, in between. I think it happens to almost every program. No one's immune from it," Barnett said.

What Barnett meant was the Huskers were still trying to adjust to going from four-year starter and Heisman Trophy winner Eric Crouch to an unknown commodity at quarterback.

"Sometimes when you've got a guy like Eric Crouch — I know we've just been going through it — you can't recruit anybody behind him," Barnett added.

Nobody wants to come play behind him.

"We did that with Craig Ochs for two years. I know how it works. We're all sitting out here trusting and playing a brand new quarterback. And I think that's what they're going through, more than anything else."

Excuse Barnett for not getting choked up over Nebraska's situation. He's had enough to deal with.

In the Buffs' second game of the season, Ochs sustained the third concussion of what has been a promising career, forcing Colorado to go into its game against Southern Cal with a completely untested Robert Hodge. Not surprisingly, the Trojans flattened CU.

Hodge did come back to guide a stunning win at UCLA to give Colorado momentum for the Big 12 portion of the schedule, when Ochs was expected to return. But Ochs, a team captain, then dropped a bomb by announcing he was transferring to Montana.

Now, the defending Big 12 champions are left behind the eight ball not only for the rest of the season, but also in recruiting.

Ochs' situation started what appears to be a shift in the balance of power in the North Division. Even after CU beat UCLA, the Buffs failed to crack the national polls.

When Iowa State beat Nebraska, the Cyclones were thought to be Kansas State's prime challenger for the North title. Maybe so, but the Cyclones still faced road trips to Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas State and Colorado.

Kansas State's road after playing at Colorado appeared easier, with trips to Baylor, Kansas, Texas A&M and Missouri. But the Wildcats still had to take on Texas and Nebraska in Manhattan.

Colorado's trek may have been the easiest, with the only road trips to upper-division finishers being to Oklahoma and Nebraska.

The Huskers probably had the most-challenging schedule of the teams expected to challenge in the North.

Down South, the winner of last week's game between Texas and Oklahoma was given the best shot at being the league's best candidate to play in the Fiesta Bowl.

But look out for Texas A&M. The Aggies are stacked on defense, and, facing similar struggles as Nebraska, got their offense in gear after Coach R.C. Slocum made a surprising in-season change among his coaching staff.

In its 31-3 rout of Louisiana Tech, A&M amassed a season-high 444 yards with Kevin Sumlin calling the plays for the first time.

A&M entered that contest averaging just 187 yards and ranked 106th out of 117 NCAA Division I-A teams. Earlier in the week, Slocum decided to have Sumlin, who coaches the wide receivers, replace offensive coordinator Dino Babers at calling the plays.

"I didn't get advice from anyone, and I can't readily recall this happening," Slocum said. "I think (the players' reactions were) positive. In coaching, you always have different situations. I think the head coach has to act when those situations come. We made that and moved on."

Some of the Nebraska fans reeling from the Iowa State result were calling for similar action. Athletic director Bill Byrne, meanwhile, was calling for patience.

It's OK if it all seems a little strange to you. It is. ■



Gary Barnett has experienced quarterback woes at Colorado.

Curt McKeever is a sportswriter, covering the University of Nebraska for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams.

Seeing Double

Bullocks twins determined to play on same side of ball

If not for their jersey numbers or where they're lined up, even George Darlington, their position coach, can't tell the Bullocks twins apart. That will change with time. But for now, he can't.

At least, that's Josh Bullocks' opinion. "We could fool him," Josh said.

Josh and brother Daniel are identical twins. And they make no attempt to differentiate themselves, quite the opposite, in fact. They are inseparable.

"We're very close," said Daniel.

Their fraternal bond is such that Daniel is playing rover instead of quarterback.

He was "Mr. Tennessee" football as a senior at Chattanooga's Hixson High as an option quarterback, averaging nearly 10 yards per carry and rushing for 1,432 yards and 21 touchdowns.

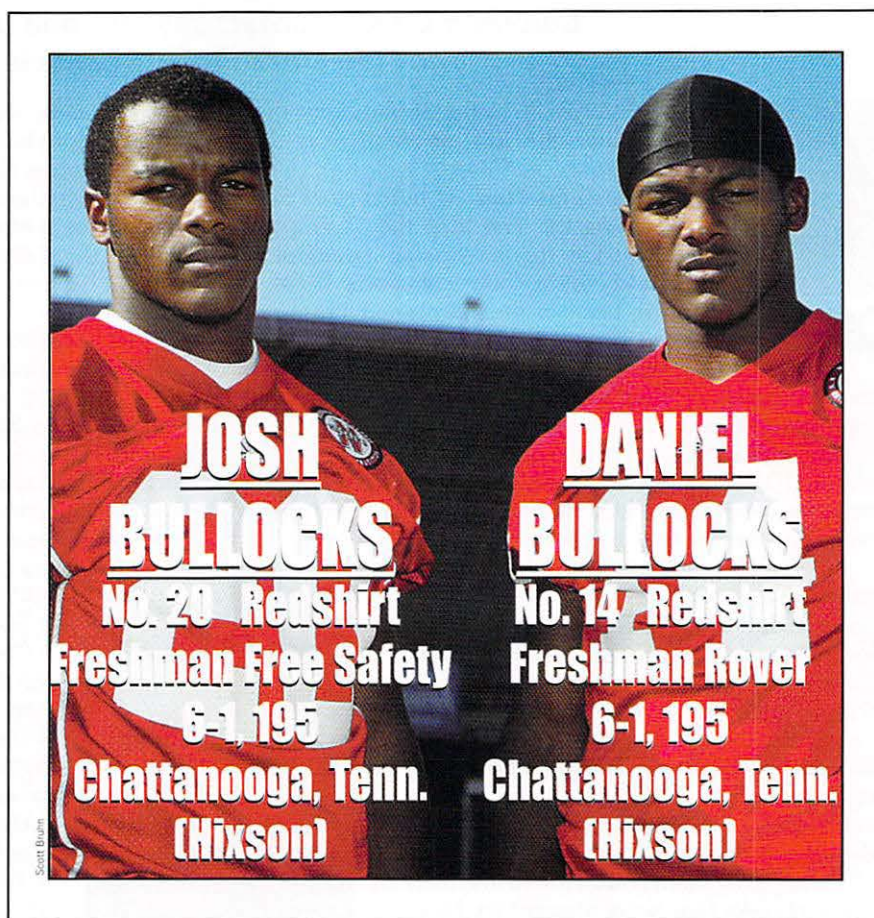
With his athleticism and size, 6-foot-1 and 195 pounds, he would be well suited to Nebraska's offense. But he isn't interested in quarterback because Josh plays free safety.

"I wanted to play on the same side of the ball as my brother, and I knew he was playing defense," Daniel said. "We play better together, so I wanted to play defense also."

If the Cornhuskers had recruited Josh to play offense — he played running back as well as defensive back in high school — Daniel would have been happy to play quarterback.

Indirectly, Josh made the decision for both of them because most major programs were interested in him as a defensive back. He was comfortable with that. And so was Daniel.

"I played a little bit (in high



school)," said Daniel.

Specifically, he played safety his senior year, making 43 tackles, intercepting four passes and recovering two fumbles. "So it wasn't (taking) that big of a chance," Daniel said.

"Everybody wants to be a quarterback. Everybody wants to be the guy. But it didn't really make any difference to me. I just wanted to play. It surprised a lot of people.

"But I didn't want to go on the opposite side (of the ball) of my brother."

The twins made that clear during recruiting. They wanted to play on the same side of the ball, and they were determined to attend the same school. Those things were non-negotiable. "We came as a package deal," said Daniel. "Absolutely no way we could have gone to different schools."

Not only that, they didn't want to

play the same position in the secondary, simply because "I didn't want to be competing with my brother," he said. Hence, Josh is a free safety.

"We won't ever compete with each other," Josh said. "That was set in our minds. We weren't going to do that. In fact, if they would have come down (with that), we wouldn't have come here."

Their positions are interchangeable, however, "so we help each other," Daniel said.

They provide constructive criticism as well as encouragement. "He knows he's got me on the sideline, or if I'm on the field with him, we've got each other out there," said Josh. "It makes you more comfortable knowing that someone's watching out for you, making sure you get things right."

"We push each other. We both think as a whole. If he's out there

doing bad, then it makes me look like I'm doing bad. And if he's doing good, we're both doing good."

The twins have always gotten along. Neither can remember a time when they were at odds. They were raised to "love each other and respect each other," Josh said. "From day one, we had a bond."

They even enrolled for all of the same classes as freshmen a year ago.

The twins live together in an apartment and room together on the road. And you're not likely to see one without the other. "That's the closest friend I have," said Daniel. "I really don't look at it as unusual. That's blood, that's family. As twins, he's a


part of you. You're just alike."

"I would say we pretty much have the same personality," Josh said. "He can be with you one day and I can be with you the next day, and you really won't find any difference."

After four years of being around them, their high school coaches could tell them apart. But as many as half of their teammates probably couldn't, according to Josh — and, of course, Daniel.

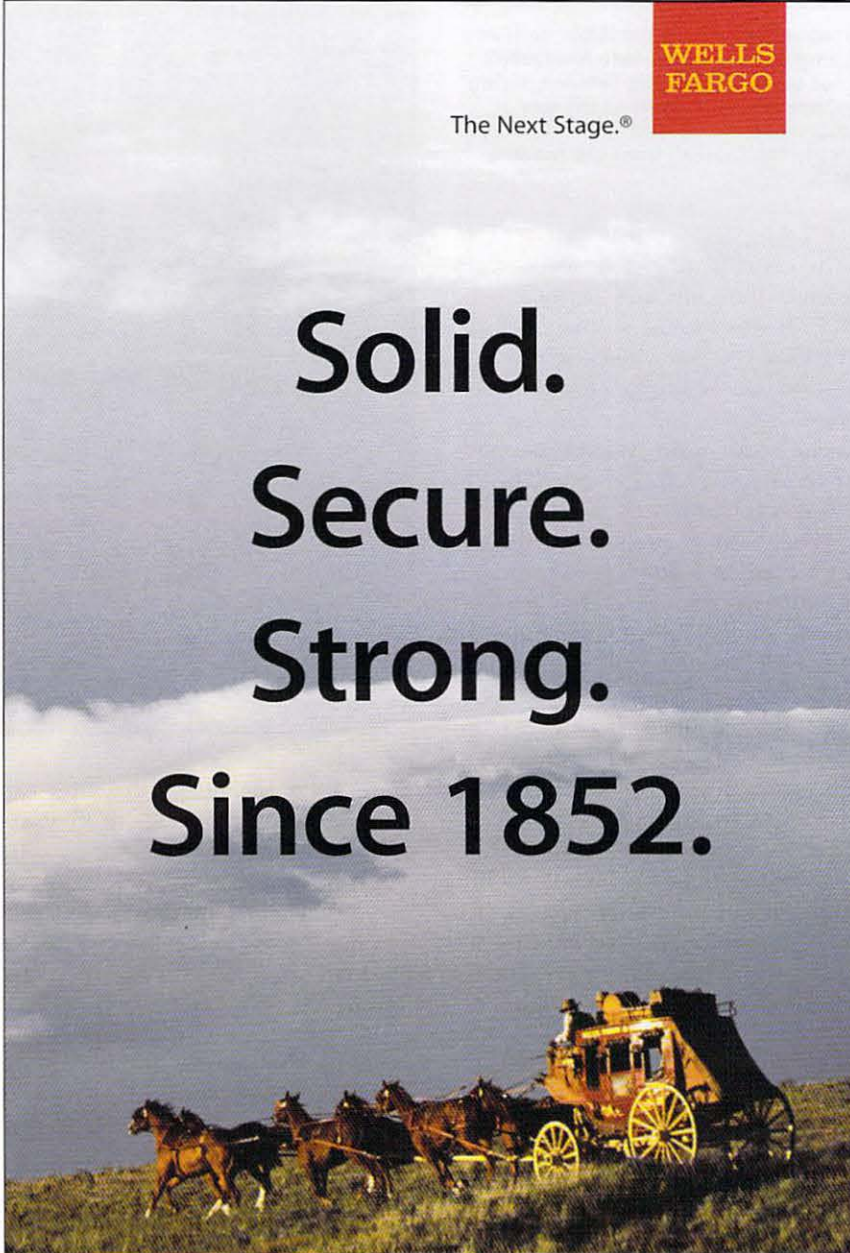
It has reached the point that neither will correct someone who misidentifies them.

"You get tired of telling people, 'I'm not Daniel, I'm Josh,' so we just go along with it," Josh said. ■



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Thankle

Players on Nebraska's scout team toil in obscurity

By Mike Babcock

Everyone on the scout team defense knows exactly what to do when Tim Albin calls "Buff Indian" during practice. "They hear 'Buff Indian' in their sleep," Albin said.

"Buff Indian" is a type of blitz used by just about every defense Nebraska faces.

Tampa Bay defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin, a former Cornhusker player and assistant coach, invented the "Buff Indian" blitz, or at least its creation is attributed to him.

"It has changed the game of football," said Albin. "We see it a lot."

As a result, those on the scout team defense run it a lot in practice. "That's one of the first things they learn when they get here," he said, "how to line up and do that blitz."

Playing defense on the scout team requires learning numerous terms, quickly. It operates on a "call" system that has been the same for about as long as anyone can remember.

Tom Osborne used the system when he coordinated Bob Devaney's offense. And the terminology hasn't changed through the years because of the continuity within the staff.

Albin, who is in his third year as a graduate assistant, had to learn Nebraska's calls when he arrived from Northwestern Oklahoma State, an NAIA school located in Alva, Okla.



Graduate assistants Tim Albin (left) and Jimmy Burrow coordinate Nebraska's scout team offense and defense during practice sessions, such as the one at right, where scout team defenders try to strip the football from the running backs.

In coordinating the scout team defense the calls are "critical," he said. "It was all new verbiage for me. Any time you change jobs in this profession, you've got to learn new verbiage."

The scout team defense depends on terminology to get lined up, to give a good look.

When Albin makes a call, the scout team defenders must respond immediately, so that the top-unit offense doesn't have to stand around and wait for them to get aligned properly.

Because most of those on the scout team are walk-ons, they can't begin practice until the first day of classes, which means their first week was a "Chinese fire drill," Albin said.

"They weren't sure where to line up those first couple of days, and it hurt our number of reps because we had to spend time getting those guys lined up correctly. It was tough."

"After that first week, I told them, 'The honeymoon's over. We expect you to have it down and get where you need to get in a hurry.' It's critical the look we give on the scout team."

The scout team offense has an easier time lining up because it can work off cards. When players break



the huddle during practice, they can look at cards to see where they are supposed to be.

"We don't just say, 'OK, run this play.' The card is drawn for that defense," said Jimmy Burrow, also a graduate assistant and Albin's counterpart with the scout team offense.

He and the other defensive coaches have the cards drawn up on Sundays, based on the offensive sets of the Cornhuskers' upcoming opponent. "We have to be specific on the cards," Burrow said.

And the plays are carefully scripted for specific segments of practice.

Craig Bohl is usually responsible

ss Duty



for goal line and blitz scripts, George Darlington seven-on-seven and red zone scripts, Nelson Barnes team scripts and Jeff Jamrog inside drill scripts.

Cards are drawn for each and assembled in books. The process is repeated every week.

The offensive scout team is accountable to the defensive coaches and vice versa. Burrow, who works with the secondary, meets with the scout team offense on Mondays, for about 30 minutes.

He shows videotape of the upcoming opponent, pointing out such things as unusual blocking

schemes or pass routes. After that, they don't meet again "unless there's a problem," he said.

The scout team quarterbacks, receivers and running backs remain fairly constant, while Milt Tenopir and Dan Young identify the offensive linemen who will work with the scout team each day.

Albin, who works with the tight ends, meets with the defensive scout team on Mondays and Tuesdays. Monday's meeting usually lasts 15 to 20 minutes, Tuesday's 10 or 15.

Scout team duty is thankless. Reporters aren't waiting around to interview them after practice. They

don't get to play much, if at all, in home games. And few get to travel.

"They're out, truly, for the love of the game," said Albin.

Top-unit players occasionally take out their frustrations on the scout team. Defensive players are supposed to wrap up but not tackle scout team ball carriers, for example.

"But they get upset sometimes and throw a running back down," Burrow said. "We don't ever take them to the ground, but there are some pretty good thuds out there."

The blocking "pretty much has to be live," he said.

The scout team defense "has to

understand the tempo," said Albin. "We're not going to bring anybody to the ground. But we've got to pursue the football, and Coach (Dave) Gillespie wants those guys trying to strip the ball out of the backs' hands. So everybody's trying to punch the ball out."

"There's a fine line of what's basically acceptable and what's not acceptable as far as tempo. And for the most part, guys get it. There's no problem. But there are scuffles."

In those situations, "I look after the scout team guys," Albin said. "I don't want anybody doing anything cheap to those scout team guys. Those are kind of my boys."

"I try to take care of them the best that I can."

Although the scout team players on both sides of the ball don't get an opportunity to learn Nebraska's system, they can still attract the attention of the coaches.

"You can tell who's got the basic ingredients of being a football player, a nose for the ball, a hard-nosed kid, a guy that can just find the ball, that's got good technique," said Albin.

The coaches acknowledge offen-

sive and defensive scout team players of the week, and there is usually good scout team unity, according to Albin. "I tell the linemen, 'Look, our offensive linemen will get mad at you or our running backs might yell at you. But that's when you're doing your job.'"

"I like to see the pride they take in it."

Grummert Definitive Scout Team Player

Matt Grummert played enough in 1999 and 2000 to earn letters as a back-up rush end. But Tim Albin remembers the walk-on from Fairbury, Neb., as the definitive scout team player.

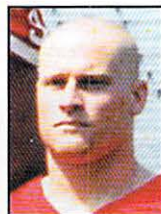
Grummert earned the award as defensive scout team player of the week more than once. And almost every day, top-unit offensive players would get mad at him because of the intensity with which he approached the job of making them better. But he always had a smile, said Albin.

"Guys like Matt, their whole attitude is, they've got to love the game. That's why this (coaching) is a great profession. These kids, that's what it's all about. I take a lot of pride in their attitude."

Albin worked with Grummert only one hour a day during practice, when he was with the scout team. But Albin has special affection for the way Grummert accepted his responsibility.

"He's out in the real world now making money," Albin said.

"I give him a hug whenever I see him." ■



Matt Grummert

While Albin discussed the defensive scout team, sophomore strong-side linebacker Ira Cooper walked by on his way to the locker room. "He used to know what 'Buff Indian' was," Albin said.

Cooper, whose days on the scout team are long since done, smiled.

"That's the coach right there," he said. ■

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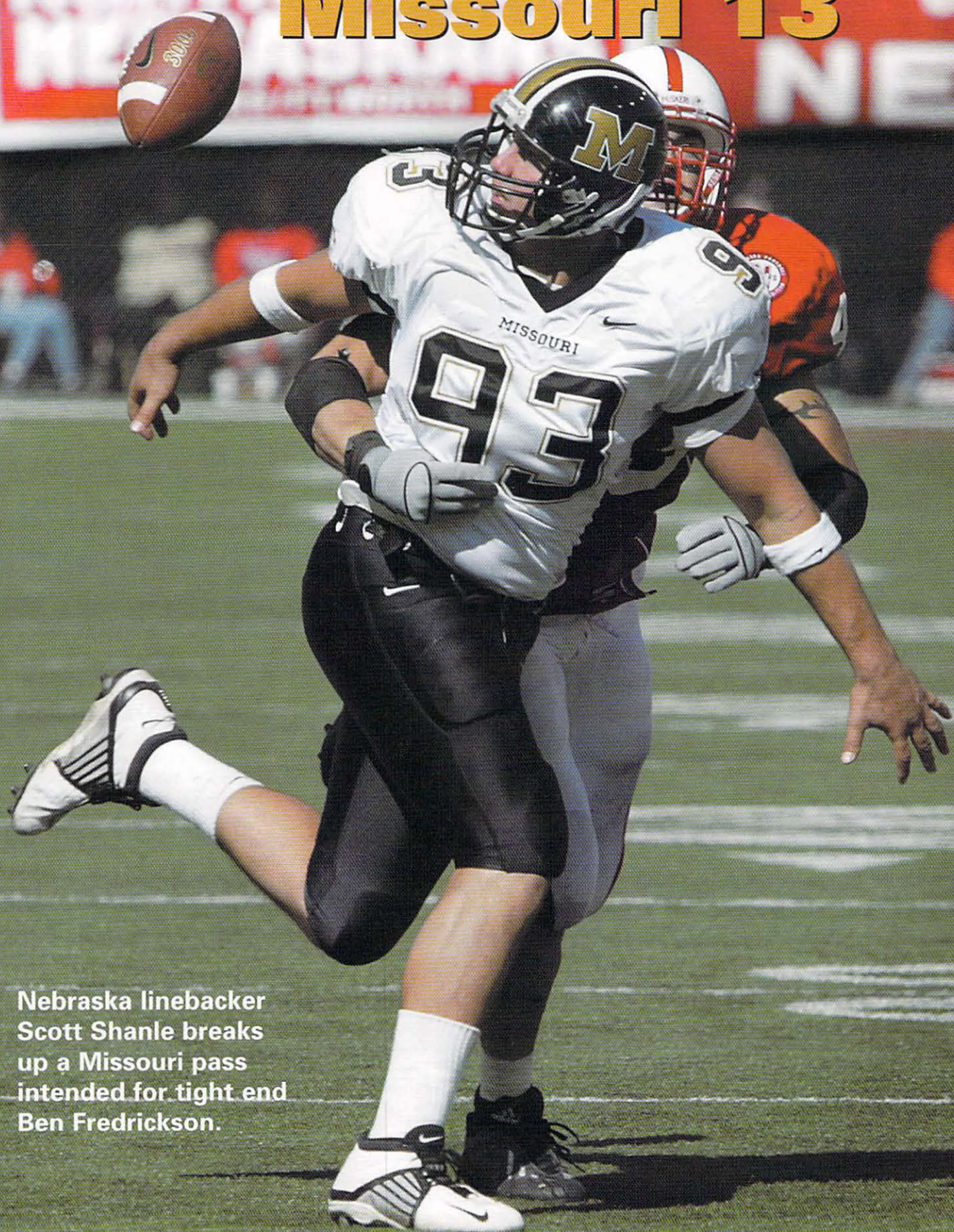
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Nebraska 24

Missouri 13



Nebraska linebacker Scott Shanle breaks up a Missouri pass intended for tight end Ben Fredrickson.

Taking Ov



Defensive tackle Patrick Kabongo (94) and rush end Justin Smith (92) celebrate after a Nebraska defensive stop in the second half. The Huskers had a lot of chances to celebrate in the second half, as they limited Missouri to two first downs and 28 total yards after intermission.

***NU defense
sets goals,
then goes out
and makes
them happen***

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Nebraska's defense was empowered to set its own course against Missouri. And the Cornhuskers' 24-13 victory was evidence of a willingness to accept that responsibility.

Defensive coordinator Craig Bohl described the empowerment as "ownership," which was facilitated by a unique defensive meeting on the Friday afternoon before the game.

The defensive coaches have always conducted the Friday meetings. But this time they turned over the meeting to defensive captains DeJuan Groce and Chris Kelsay and left the room.

The charge was to set defensive goals against a Missouri team that was coming to Memorial Stadium fired by the emotional energy of a near upset of No. 3-ranked Oklahoma.

The Tigers had rolled up 449 yards in the 31-24 loss at home, with redshirted freshman quarterback Brad Smith accounting for 391 of those yards, rushing and passing.

After consulting some of the other seniors, Groce and Kelsay marked four goals on the chalkboard in the South Stadium meeting room just off the hallway from the locker room to the field.

The goals, in their final form, were to hold Missouri to 13 points and fewer than 100 yards rushing and 250 yards of total offense and to force at least three turnovers.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN

Ownership



Nebraska rush end Trevor Johnson tries to corral Missouri quarterback Brad Smith. Johnson finished with five tackles, including one of the Huskers' four sacks.

Everyone bought into the goals, said senior strongside linebacker Scott Shanle.

And even though discussion was encouraged and amendment allowed before they were finalized, the goals "didn't get changed at all," sophomore free safety Philip Bland said.

"I thought they were 'do-able,'" said Shanle.

And so they were, at least three of the four. Missouri scored 13 points, all in the first half, rushed for 97

yards, a net of only 4 in the second half, and finished with 220 total yards.

The only goal the defense didn't meet was the three turnovers. It produced none.

But no one was complaining. "A great deal needs to be given to those football players because they took ownership and possession of that football game," Bohl said.

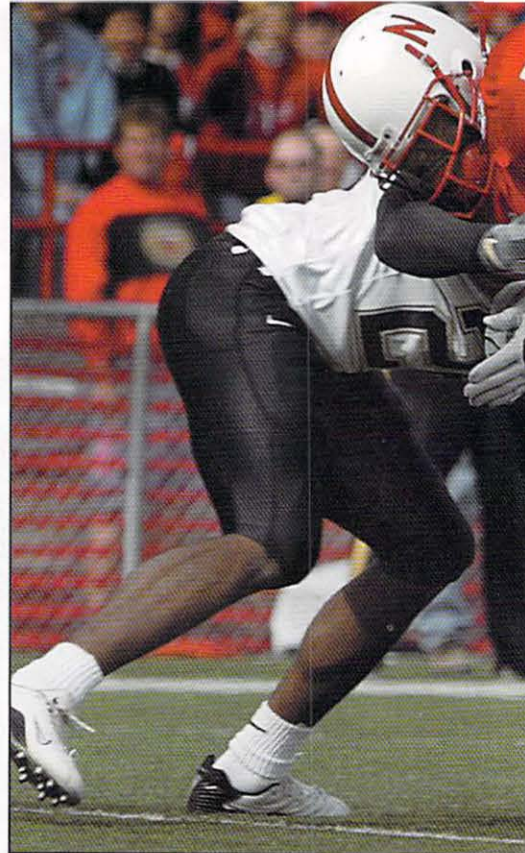
"I was pleased with the effort they made."

It was the best of the season, "no question," he said.

Consider that Missouri's only touchdown came early in the game, after the Tigers recovered a Jammal Lord fumble on Nebraska's first play from scrimmage at the Cornhusker 33-yard line.

Lord was lined up in a shotgun formation and mishandled a low snap from center.

Consider also that Missouri's rushing yardage was inflated by



Senior DeJuan Groce put the Huskers in control with his third of the season, midway through the third quarter (above) and the first of the first quarter.

Zack Abron's 48-yard run on a trap near the end of the first quarter. That run, which carried to the Nebraska 19, fueled a series in which the Tigers had first-and-goal at the Nebraska 2. But they were forced to settle for a field goal.

"I think that was a momentum changer for the defense," said Groce. The senior cornerback made a significant contribution to the Cornhuskers' momentum midway through the third quarter when he returned a punt 89 yards for a touchdown.

By then, Nebraska had taken control, thanks to another defensive stand near the end of the first half. Missouri took possession at the

Cornhusker 42, following a 14-yard, Kyle Larson punt, with an opportunity to increase their 13-7 lead. But Nebraska's defense held to regain the momentum.

That was a crucial stop, according to Coach Frank Solich.

The Cornhuskers took over at their own 34 and drove 66 yards to a touchdown that gave them the lead for good. Freshman I-back David Horne carried on the first of six plays, breaking up the middle for 30 yards. The drive was capped by Lord's 1-yard pass to tight end Aaron Golliday.

The first-half finish was "the key to us having momentum," Solich said.

Nebraska generated enough offense to get the job done, gaining 325 of 359 total yards on the ground. But it was the defense, which has been maligned at times this season, that stepped up.

And it stepped up without Kelsay, who watched from the sideline in street clothes because of a hamstring injury. Not having Kelsay "was a concern," said Solich.

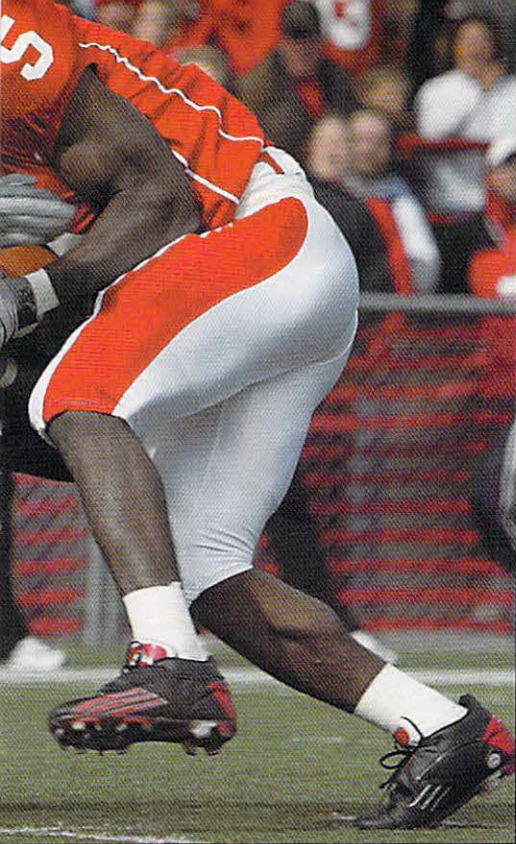
"But the bottom line is, if you're playing good team defense and your guys are flying around, you're going to have a chance to control football games. And I thought our defense did that."

The defense was serious enough about achieving the goals it set for itself that players did a little scoreboard watching, according to Shanle. Because Missouri had 13 points at halftime, the defensive players were determined to shut out the Tigers in the second half, he said.

And even after Missouri went over 100 yards rushing in the third quarter, Nebraska's defense didn't give up on its goal of limiting the Tigers to fewer than 100 for the game.

Senior rush end Demoine Adams took matters in his own hands, sacking Smith for losses of 4 and 2 yards on Missouri's first two possessions of the second half to drop the rushing total below 100.

In Kelsay's absence, Adams "stepped



h an 89-yard punt return for a touchdown (left),
quarter. True freshman I-back David Horne scored
his career on a 5-yard run with 4:17 remaining in

up to the plate," Bohl said.

Kelsay also contributed, however, by keeping his teammates focused and "on edge."

"Chris was on the sideline, getting everybody pumped up," Groce said.

The Cornhuskers kept Smith in check, sacking him four times in all and limiting him to a net of 34 yards rushing on 17 carries. He completed 14-of-29 passes for 123 yards.

After watching Smith's performance against Oklahoma on television, "I stayed up all Saturday night," said Bohl, whose plan was to take away the run and make Missouri's offense one-dimensional. So "we deployed more players against the run." That "really stressed our secondary," he said.

But the secondary, like the rest of the defense, was up to the challenge.

"I'm extremely pleased with the effort the defensive coaches put forth in organizing the plan, and the effort the players put forth in carrying the plan out," Solich said.

The coaches organized the plan, but the players set the goals and achieved them.

The players realized "this was a game that had to be won," said Bland.

"We had passion. We had heart." ■

4TH & 1 INCHES

Notes And Quotes From The Missouri Game

WHO'S THE STARTER NOW?

Freshman David Horne was the leading rusher among Nebraska's I-backs, gaining 88 yards and scoring his first touchdown on 20 carries. His performance, second overall to quarterback Jammal Lord's 98 rushing yards, prompted a question about the starting I-back's job.

"I'm not going to address a question on starters," said Coach Frank Solich. "I never have in a press conference after a game. We'll do what we usually do after watching the film."

Senior Dahrran Diedrick has been No. 1 on the depth chart throughout the season, though he didn't start against Missouri because Nebraska opened in a formation with Cory Ross and Josh Davis at the wings. Diedrick finished with 61 rushing yards on 14 carries.

"When we needed power runs, he did a very good job as the game wore on," Solich said of Diedrick. "I thought we had flashes of very good moments from a lot of the I-backs. It's still a situation where we're trying to play a lot of guys and see exactly how we want it to work."

"We're able to put guys in, and they seem to be productive."

Horne, who was playing in only his second game after shedding a redshirt, wasn't complaining about how he was used. "I can't speak for the other people," he said. "But I am (satisfied). We're all team players."

Horne was quick to credit the offensive line for his rushing success.

"The holes were there, all kinds of holes," he said.

KICKING GAME ADVANTAGE

Although punter Kyle Larson struggled through his worst game at Nebraska, averaging only 27.2 yards on six punts, the special teams "played a big roll," said Solich.

DeJuan Groce returned four punts for 114 yards, 89 of them on his third punt return for a touchdown this season to tie the school single-season record. He now shares it with Johnny Rodgers.

The touchdown return, midway through the third quarter, was "wide open," Groce said. "We are a dangerous punt return team because we are going to either return it or block it."

Josh Davis gave Nebraska good field position, returning four kickoffs for 111 yards before leaving the game with a quadriceps injury — apparently the only serious injury for the Cornhuskers.

The combined return yardage of Groce and Davis was 225. Missouri had only 29 yards in returns.

GOOD LORD

Though Lord's passing performance left something to be desired, "I thought Jammal played well," said Solich. "The bottom line is, he was able to rally this football team."

"Leading the team, I thought he did a good job."

ADAMS STEPS UP

With Chris Kelsay sidelined by a hamstring injury, Demoiné Adams stepped back in as a starter, along with Trevor Johnson. "We were unified and on the same page," said Adams, who accounted for two of Nebraska's four sacks. "A lot of times, our effort and not giving up paid off."

"We were able to get some pressure on the quarterback and keep the running game in check. Our first goal was to stop the run and make them throw and throw in a hurry."

TIGER SHUTDOWN

Missouri struggled on offense in the second half, managing only 28 total yards, including 4 rushing, and two first downs, both in the third quarter. "You have to give them credit," Tiger Coach Gary Pinkel said. "We were not executing on offense, and that was one of the first times this year."

Missouri went into the game ranked third in the Big 12 and 15th nationally in total offense, averaging 441.4 yards per game. Quarterback Brad Smith was averaging 332.0 yards of total offense.

In the second half, "we were three and out, three and out, three and out," said Pinkel, who is in his second year as the Tigers' coach. "To be honest with you, we didn't react to that very well."

"We had some dropped balls, and there were some breakdowns in protection and some bad throws. If you get a combination of those things happening two or three series in a row, you get what you got there. That was certainly a very awful half of offense for us, and an exceptional half of defense for them."

"You give hem three and out, three and out, that just builds defenses up." ■

2002 Schedule

1	Aug. 24	Arizona State (5-2), W 48-10	1-0
2	Aug. 31	Troy State (2-5), W 31-16	2-0
3	Sept. 7	Utah State (1-5), W 44-13	3-0
4	Sept. 14	@ Penn State (4-2), L 40-7	3-1
5	Sept. 28	@ Iowa State (6-1), L 36-14	3-2
6	Oct. 5	McNeese St. (4-1), W 38-14	4-2
7	Oct. 12	Missouri (3-3), W 24-13	5-2
8	Oct. 19	@ Oklahoma St. (2-4), 11:30 a.m.	
9	Oct. 26	@ Texas A&M (4-2), TBA	
10	Nov. 2	Texas (5-1), TBA	
11	Nov. 9	Kansas (Homecoming) (2-5), TBA	
12	Nov. 16	@ Kansas State (5-1), TBA	
13	Nov. 29	Colorado (4-2), 2:30 p.m., ABC	
	Dec. 7	Big 12 Championship at Houston, Texas, 7 p.m., ABC	

Big 12 at a Glance

	North	Conf.	All
Iowa State	3	0	6 1
Colorado	2	0	4 2
Kansas State	1	1	5 1
Nebraska	1	1	5 2
Missouri	0	2	3 3
Kansas	0	3	2 5

	South	Conf.	All
Oklahoma	2	0	6 0
Texas	1	1	5 1
Texas A&M	1	1	4 2
Texas Tech	1	1	4 3
Baylor	1	1	3 3
Oklahoma State	0	2	2 4

Saturday, Oct. 12

Nebraska 24, Missouri 13
Oklahoma 35, Texas 24 (Dallas)
Colorado 53, Kansas 29
Iowa State 31, Texas Tech 17
Kansas State 44, Oklahoma State 9
Texas A&M 41, Baylor 0

Saturday, Oct. 19

Nebraska at Oklahoma State
Iowa State at Oklahoma
Missouri at Texas Tech
Texas A&M at Kansas
Texas at Kansas State
Baylor at Colorado

Upcoming Opponents' Schedules

Oklahoma State (2-4)

Aug. 31 @ Louisiana Tech, L 39-36
Sept. 7 Northern Iowa, W 45-10
Sept. 14 UCLA, L 38-24
Sept. 21 SMU, W 52-16
Oct. 5 @ Texas, L 17-15
Oct. 12 @ Kansas State, L 44-9
Oct. 19 Nebraska
Nov. 2 Texas A&M
Nov. 9 @ Texas Tech
Nov. 16 @ Kansas
Nov. 23 Baylor
Nov. 30 Oklahoma

Texas A&M (4-2)

Aug. 31 Louisiana-Lafayette, W 31-7
Sept. 7 @ Pittsburgh, W 14-12
Sept. 21 Virginia Tech, L 13-3
Sept. 28 Louisiana Tech, W 31-3
Oct. 5 Texas Tech, L 48-47
Oct. 12 @ Baylor, W 41-0
Oct. 19 @ Kansas
Oct. 26 Nebraska
Nov. 2 @ Oklahoma State
Nov. 9 Oklahoma
Nov. 16 Missouri
Nov. 29 @ Texas

Game 8

At Oklahoma State Oct. 19

Location: Stillwater, Okla.

Enrollment: 21,130

2002 record: 2-4

Coach: Les Miles, 2nd year

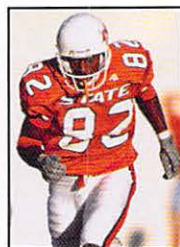
Series: Nebraska leads 35-2-1



11:30 a.m. CDT, Fox Sports Net
Lewis Field, Stillwater, Okla.

Cowboy to Watch

Junior wide receiver Rashaun Woods entered his junior season as the most touted Cowboy receiver since Hart Lee Dykes, and he has a chance to replace Dykes at the top of every OSU career receiving record before he's done. As a sophomore, Woods had 80 catches for 1,023 yards and 10 touchdowns. Through six games this season, the 6-foot-2, 190-pounder has 46 catches for 676 yards and six touchdowns.



Quick Facts

After taking Texas to the wire before losing 17-15 in Austin, the Cowboys struggled in a 44-9 loss at Kansas State.

Sophomore quarterback Josh Fields is one of the top passers in the Big 12, connecting on 107 of 202 passes for 1,216 yards and 11 touchdowns. He has been intercepted eight times. Fields, who had a career-high 291 yards against UCLA, has a chance to better the OSU sophomore record of 2,106 yards set by his coach Mike Gundy.

The Cowboys blocked three Kansas State extra-point kicks, with Darrent Williams returning one of the blocks for a two-point defensive conversion.

On Deck

At Texas A&M Oct. 26

Location: College Station, Texas

Enrollment: 44,081

2002 record: 4-2

Coach: R.C. Slocum, 14th year
Series: Nebraska leads 7-2



Time TBA

Kyle Field, College Station, Texas

Tentative 2 Deeps

NEBRASKA OFFENSE

SE	9	Wilson Thomas***	6-6	215	Sr.
	2	Ross Pilkington	6-0	195	Fr.
LT	51	Richie Incognito	6-3	295	RFr.
	69	Nick Piovendo	6-3	300	So.
LG	78	Mike Erickson*	6-4	295	So.
	55	Junior Tagoa'i*	6-2	285	Jr.
C	52	John Garrison***	6-4	290	Sr.
	79	Josh Sewell	6-2	300	Jr.
RG	59	Wes Cody**	6-2	305	Sr.
	55	Junior Tagoa'i*	6-2	295	Jr.
RT	68	Dan Vill Waldrop**	6-5	315	Jr.
	69	Nick Piovendo	6-3	300	So.
TE	99	Aaron Golliday***	6-4	290	Sr.
	84	Jon Bowling***	6-3	240	Sr.
QB	10	Jammal Lord**	6-2	210	Jr.
	16	Mike Stuntz*	6-1	200	So.
FB	4	Judd Davies**	6-0	255	Jr.
	45	Steve Kriewald*	5-10	255	So.
IB	30	Dahrran Diedrick***	6-0	225	Sr.
	5	David Horne	6-0	190	Fr.
WB	89	Troy Hassebroek***	6-4	215	Sr.
	81	Ben Cornelsen**	5-10	190	Sr.
PK	26	Josh Brown***	6-2	190	Sr.

NEBRASKA DEFENSE

LR	57	Chris Kelsay***	6-5	255	Sr.
	92	Justin Smith***	6-4	265	Sr.
NT	59	Ryon Bingham*	6-3	280	Jr.
	55	Jon Clanton***	6-2	285	Sr.
DT	94	Patrick Kabongo**	6-6	305	Jr.
	66	Le Kevin Smith	6-2	300	RFr.
RR	88	Trevor Johnson**	6-4	250	Jr.
or	98	Demoin Adams***	6-2	260	Sr.
SLB	43	Scott Shanley**	6-2	240	Sr.
	47	Ira Cooper*	6-2	220	So.
MLB	38	Barrett Ruud*	6-2	240	So.
	54	Chad Sievers	6-3	225	So.
WLB	7	Demorrio Williams	6-1	205	Jr.
or	17	T.J. Hollowell**	6-0	220	Jr.
LCB	3	Fabian Washington	6-0	175	Fr.
	28	Pat Ricketts**	5-11	180	Jr.
FS	21	Philip Bland*	5-11	205	So.
	31	Jerrell Pippens**	6-2	195	Jr.
RCV	14	Daniel Bullocks	6-1	195	RFr.
or	21	Philip Bland*	5-11	205	So.
RCB	5	DeJuan Groce***	5-10	190	Sr.
	1	Lornell McPherson*	5-9	175	So.
P	19	Kyle Larson	6-0	195	Jr.

Oklahoma St. OFFENSE

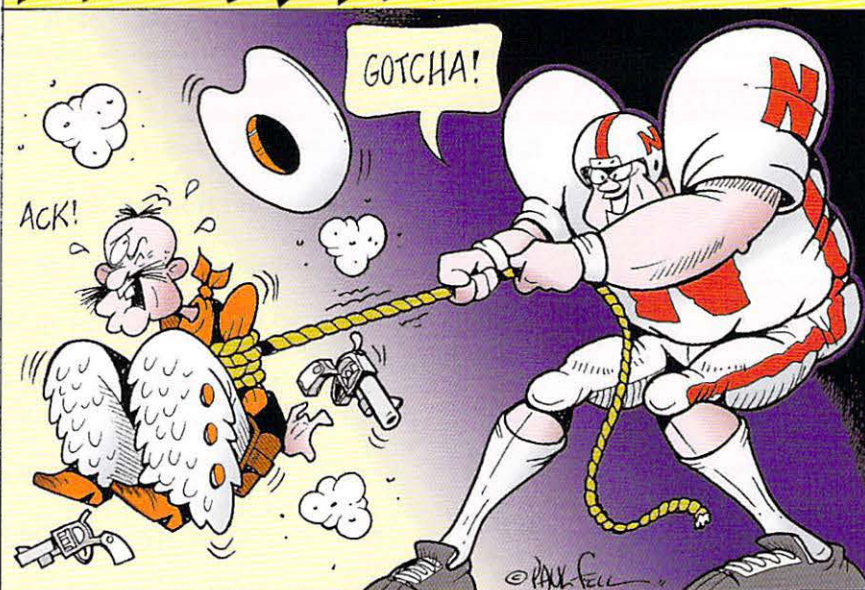
WR	82	Rashaun Woods**	6-2	190	Jr.
	85	John Wohlgemuth*	6-2	190	So.
LT	65	Kyle Eaton***	6-8	300	Sr.
	78	Kellen Davis	6-5	275	RFr.
LG	66	Corey Curtis	6-5	265	RFr.
or	69	Chris Akin*	6-2	290	So.
C	56	Ben Buie*	6-2	305	So.
	63	Bryon Machado	6-2	260	RFr.
RG	76	Sam Mayes*	6-4	315	So.
	79	Jon Hayhurst**	6-3	290	Jr.
RT	52	Jason Russell***	6-6	305	Sr.
	71	Dustin Vanderhoof***	6-4	325	Sr.
TE	86	Billy Bojema*	6-5	250	So.
	80	Charlie Johnson	6-4	255	Fr.
QB	13	Josh Fields*	6-1	210	So.
	2	Asa Pogi**	6-4	245	Jr.
TB	7	Tatum Bell**	5-11	210	Jr.
or	22	Seymore Shaw	6-0	220	So.
FB	40	Tim Burroughs**	6-1	255	Jr.
	29	Mike Denard***	5-11	250	Sr.
WR	88	Willie Young***	6-2	225	Sr.
or	6	John Lewis*	6-0	195	Sr.
K	27	Luke Phillips*	6-0	170	Jr.

Oklahoma St. DEFENSE

RE	35	Greg Richmond**	6-2	240	Jr.
or	51	Kyle Beck	6-3	245	Sr.
DT	58	Kevin Williams***	6-5	290	Sr.
	96	Clay Coe*	6-2	280	So.
NG	89	LaWaylon Brown***	6-5	305	Sr.
	83	Kyle Hix	6-5	280	RFr.
DE	91	Antonio Smith	6-4	255	So.
or	95	Khreem Smith*	6-4	240	Jr.
LB	12	Paul Duren	6-1	235	RFr.
	44	Paquette McGee	6-1	225	Fr.
MLB	30	Terrence Robinson***	6-1	240	Sr.
	99	Lawrence Pinson	6-2	235	Fr.
LCB	9	Darrent Williams*	5-9	170	So.
	20	Vernon Grant	5-10	180	Fr.
SS	31	Kirk Milligan*	6-1	195	Sr.
	2	Fatih Carter**	6-3	230	Jr.
S	3	Elbert Craig**	6-1	220	Jr.
	14	Chase Holland	6-0	205	RFr.
WS	8	Chris Massey***	6-0	220	Sr.
	10	Thomas Wright	6-1	190	Fr.
RCB	4	Kobina Amoo*	5-10	195	Sr.
or	1	Ricklan H. Miller***	5-11	200	Sr.
P	15	Sky Rylant	6-0	205	Jr.

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

NEBRASKA vs. OKLAHOMA STATE



OCTOBER 19, 2002
HUSKERS HOGTIE COWBOYS BEFORE THEY CAN
START SHOOTING UP THE PLACE!

PICKS

NEBRASKA

AT OKLAHOMA ST.

Brian Hill Editor

Two of Oklahoma State's four losses were by a total of five points, including the 17-15 loss at Texas. But the Cowboys didn't put up much of a fight in losing 44-9 at Kansas State. Nebraska's road woes and Oklahoma State's up-and-down play make this far from a sure thing for the Huskers, who need to improve each week. The Cowboys have a strong passing game... but so did Missouri. **Nebraska 24, Oklahoma State 16**

Mike Babcock
Contributing Editor
That the Cowboys came up

just two points short of Texas at Austin says more about their potential than their 2-4 record does. Plus, Nebraska hasn't exactly distinguished itself in its two games on the road. **Nebraska 27, Oklahoma State 24**

Terry Douglass Grand Island Independent Sports Editor

It's difficult to get a handle on Oklahoma State. The Cowboys have looked mediocre at times but shown the ability to compete with the big boys in a narrow loss at Texas. Nebraska had best take its "A game" to Stillwater. **Nebraska 27, Oklahoma State 23**

BY THE NUMBERS

Nebraska vs. Missouri
Oct. 12, 2002 • Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.

Score By Quarters

Missouri	10	3	0	0	—	13
Nebraska	7	7	7	3	—	24

Team Stats

	MU	NU
First Downs	11	20
Rushing	1	16
Passing	6	2
Penalty	4	2
Rushing Attempts	30	62
Yards Gained Rushing	117	357
Yards Lost Rushing	20	32
Net Yards Rushing	97	325
Net Yards Passing	123	34
Passes Attempted	29	12
Passes Completed	14	4
Had Intercepted	0	0
Total Plays	59	74
Total Net Yards	220	359
Avg. Gain Per Play	3.7	4.9
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	7-44	6-66
Punts-Yards	8-382	6-163
Avg. Per Punt	47.8	27.2
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	4-114
Interceptions-Yards	0-0	0-0
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	2-29	4-111
Possession Time	27:02	32:58

Scoring

MU — Zack Abnon 1-yard run (Mike Matheny kick)
NU — David Horne 5-yard run (Josh Brown kick)
MU — Matheny 22-yard field goal
MU — Matheny 44-yard field goal
NU — Aaron Golliday 1-yard pass from Jammal Lord (Brown kick)
NU — DeJuan Groce 89-yard punt return (Brown kick)
NU — Brown 42-yard field goal
Att. — 78,014
Weather — mostly sunny
Temp. — 51

Individual Statistics

MISSOURI

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Abnon, Z.	12	65	5.4	48	1
Smith, B.	17	34	2.0	12	0
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Smith, B.	14-29-0	48.3	123	0

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Gage, J.	7	47	6.7	20	0
Outlaw, D.	5	71	14.2	22	0
Coffey, S.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Leon, T.	1	-1	-1.0	0	0

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Harvey, B.	8	382	47.8	69

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
None					

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Ferguson, T.	1	18	18.0	18	0
Mitchell, S.	1	11	11.0	11	0

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Barnes, B.	4	9	13	1-3	0	0
Kinney, J.	3	8	11	1-3	0	0
Doyle, S.	7	3	10	1-1	0	0
Wright, K.	6	3	9	3-9	0	0
Ferguson, T.	2	4	6	0	0	0
Harden, M.	4	0	4	0	0	0
Tarpoft, N.	1	3	4	1-11	0	1-11
Jones, R.	1	3	4	0	0	0
Bell, R.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Bynum, A.	1	2	3	1-1	0	0
Mosley, C.	0	3	3	1-1	0	0
Anthony, G.	0	3	3	0	0	0
Smith, B.	2	0	2	0	0	0
King, M.	2	0	2	0	0	0
Simpson, J.	2	0	2	0	0	0
Pitts, P.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Duncan, A.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Mills, T.	0	0	1	0	0	0
Matheny, M.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Ellison, A.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Starks, T.	0	1	1	0	0	0

NEBRASKA

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Lord, J.	17	98	5.8	35	0
Horne, D.	20	88	4.4	30	1
Diedrick, D.	14	61	4.4	16	0
Davies, J.	3	33	11.0	22	0
Collins, T.	4	17	4.3	9	0
Ross, C.	1	14	14.0	14	0
Larson, K.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Kriewald, S.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Simmons, M.	1	3	3.0	3	0

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Lord, J.	4-12-0	33.3	34	1

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Pilkington, R.	1	17	17.0	17	0
Ross, C.	1	13	13.0	13	0
Diedrick, D.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Golliday, A.	1	1	1.0	1	1

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Larson, K.	6	163	27.2	45

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Groce, D.	4	114	28.5	89	1

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	4	111	27.8	39	0

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Ruud, B.	3	5	8	0	0	0
Ricketts, P.	3	2	5	0	0	0
Johnson, T.	2	3	5	1-1	0	1-1
Shanley, S.	2	3	5	0	0	0
Groce, D.	2	2	4	1-2	0	0
Bland, P.	2	2	4	0	0	0
Hopkins, L.	2	2	4	1-8	0	1-8
Adams, D.	2	2	4	2-5	0	2-5
Washington, F.	2	1	3	1-2	0	0
Williams, D.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Smith, J.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Clanton, J.	0	3	3	0	0	0
Hollowell, T.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Smith, L.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Bingham, R.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Kabongo, P.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Sievers, C.	0	1	1	0	0	0

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Ruud, B.	3	5	8	0	0	0
Ricketts, P.	3	2	5	0	0	0
Johnson, T.	2	3	5	1-1	0	1-1
Shanley, S.	2	3	5	0	0	0
Groce, D.	2	2	4	1-2	0	0
Bland, P.	2	2	4	0	0	0
Hopkins, L.	2	2	4	1-8	0	1-8
Adams, D.	2	2	4	2-5	0	2-5
Washington, F.	2	1	3	1-2	0	0
Williams, D.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Smith, J.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Clanton, J.	0	3	3	0	0	0
Hollowell, T.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Smith, L.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Bingham, R.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Kabongo, P.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Sievers, C.	0	1	1	0	0	0



Nebraska rush end Demoin Adams gets hold of Missouri quarterback Brad Smith in the end zone but is called for a facemask penalty.

2002 SEASON STATS

RUSHING LEADERS

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	TD
Lord, J.	7	108	689	98.4	6
Diedrick, D.	7	102	459	65.6	2
Horne, D.	2	32	169	84.5	1
Ross, C.	7	30	167	23.9	2
Davis, J.	7	13	89	12.7	0
Davies, J.	7	21	86	12.3	4
LeFlore, M.	5	1	64	12.5	1
Simmons, M.	6	9	43	7.2	0
Collins, T.	3	14	39	13.0	0
Stuntz, M.	5	11	19	3.8	0
Kriewald, S.	7	6	16	2.3	0

PASSING LEADERS

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Lord, J.	7	48-96-6	50.0	633	6
Stuntz, M.	5	9-22-0	40.9	97	0

RECEIVING LEADERS

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPR	TD
Thomas, W.	7	19	179	9.4	25.6	2
Pilkington, R.	7	9	210	23.3	30.0	1
Davis, J.	7	6	42	7.0	6.0	0
Ross, C.	7	5	39	7.8	5.5	0
Cornelsen, B.	7	4	46	11.5	6.6	0
Hasselbroek, T.	7	3	35	11.7	5.0	1
Diedrick, D.	7	3	16	5.3	2.3	0
Bowling, J.	6	2	78	39.0	13.0	0
Golliday, A.	6	2	17	8.5	2.8	1
Herian, M.	5	1	33	33.0	6.6	1
Ringenberg, K.	6	1	25	25.0	4.2	0
Simmons, M.	6	1	18	18.0	3.0	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Brown, J.	7	7	6	44

PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Larson, K.	34	1,464	43.1	71

PUNT RETURN LEADER

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Groce, D.	18	399	22.2	89	3

KICKOFF RETURN LEADER

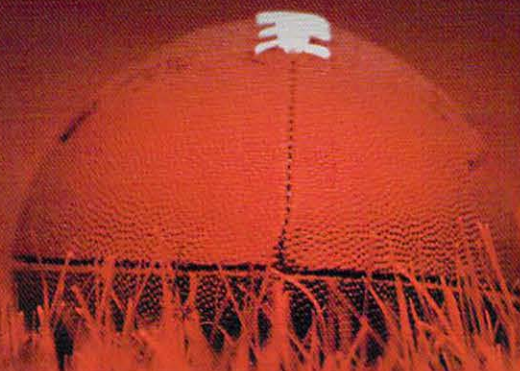
Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	18	421	23.4	42	0

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	S/Yds.
Ruud, B.	7	19	23	42	6-18	0	1-8
Shanley, S.	7	17	20	37	3-12	0	1-10
Ricketts, P.	7	21	15	36	1-4	1-11	0
Williams, D.	7	16	19	35	1-1	0	0
Hollowell, T.	7	12	22	34	2-6	0	1-5
Bland, P.	7	16	17	33	3-11	0	0
Kabongo, P.	6	5	26	31	5-20	0	1.5-17

TEAM STATISTICS		NU	OPP			
Total Offensive Yards		2,602	2,389			
Plays		475	511			
Average Per Play		5.5	4.7			
Average Per Game		371.7	334.3			
Net Rushing Yards		1,872	935			
Attempts		356	269			
TDs Rushing		16	12			
Net Passing Yards		730	1,454			
Completions		57	114			
Average Per Pass		6.1	6.0			
Average Per Catch		12.8	12.8			
Average Per Game		104.3	207.7			
TDs Passing		6	3			
Sacks By-Yards		17-128	9-60			
Fumbles-Lost		17-8	8-2			
Penalties-Yards		40-350	36-260			
Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
NU	41	69	49	47	0	206
Opponents	23	42	41	36	0	142

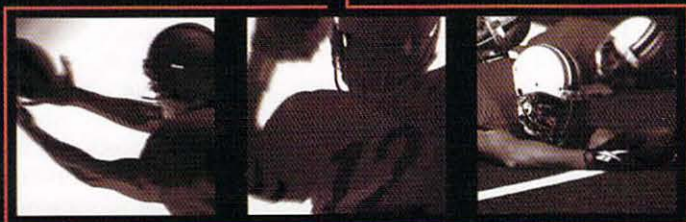
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Good Reference

Looking for a recommendation, Young ended up with a job

By Mike Babcock

All Dan Young really wanted from Tom Osborne was a job recommendation.

Iowa State Coach Jim Criner had an opening on his staff, and Young had applied, with encouragement from an acquaintance on the Cyclone staff.

Young had been the head football coach at Omaha Westside for six seasons, during which his teams won 55 of 66 games and back-to-back Class A state championships.

His 1982 team finished 12-0 and was ranked nationally by USA Today.

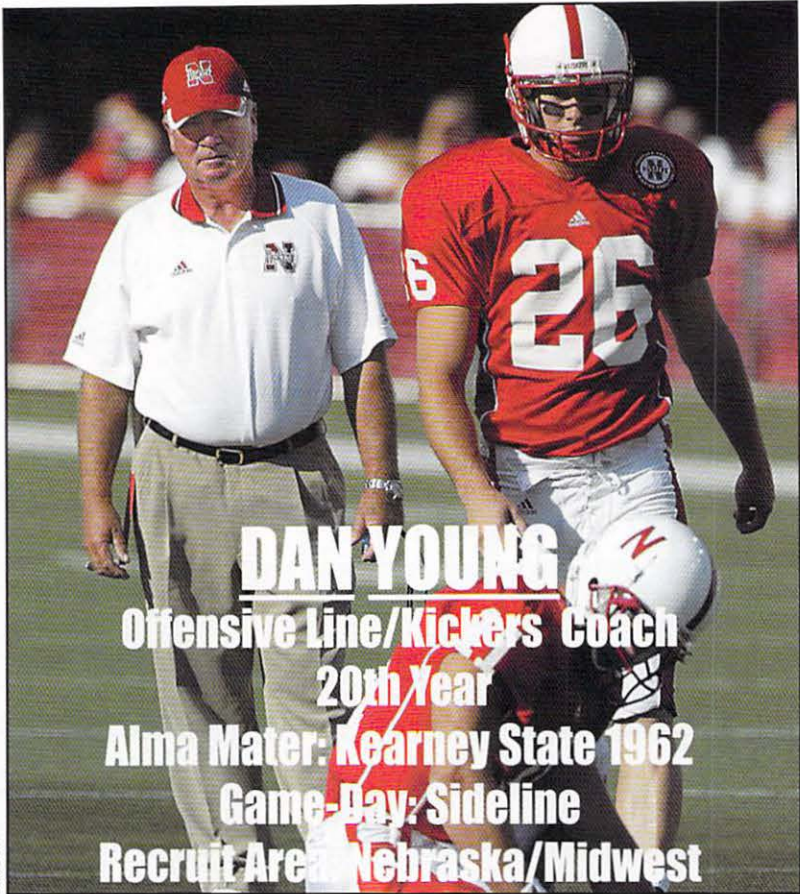
Roger Herring, Young's successor as the Warriors' coach, told a Lincoln newspaper that following him "must be a little like when Tom Osborne took over for Bob Devaney."

Because of the success under Young's direction, recruiters made regular visits to Westside. Six players from the 1982 team earned scholarships from Division I schools, including quarterback Jeff Taylor and wide receiver Scott Hill. Both were headed to Nebraska.

Naturally, Young was acquainted with Osborne, as well as with Cletus Fischer, the Cornhusker assistant who was primarily responsible for recruiting in-state high schools. So it wasn't surprising that he would include Osborne as a reference in his pursuit of the Iowa State job.

Soon after his request for a recommendation, Young received a call from Osborne, who wanted to know if he would be interested in coaching Nebraska's freshman team.

Mike Corgan was retiring as the Cornhuskers' running backs coach, allowing Osborne to promote Frank Solich, the freshman coach the previ-



DAN YOUNG
 Offensive Line/Kickers Coach
 20th Year
 Alma Mater: Kearney State 1962
 Game-Day: Sideline
 Recruit Area: Nebraska/Midwest

Scott Brown

ous four seasons.

Young would be a graduate assistant, with no guarantee of a full-time position. But Fischer was nearing retirement, Osborne told Young, "and we'll see what kind of job you do."

Given his success at Westside, "to come down here and be a graduate assistant was somewhat risky," said Young. On the positive side, however, "Tom said it wasn't going to be a lot different than what you've been doing because you're going to have your own staff, your own team."

Nebraska's freshman team, which included scholarship as well as walk-on players, practiced separate from the varsity, played a five-game schedule and attracted good crowds.

The program was a "great advantage" in developing players, according to Young, which is why the

NCAA effectively legislated freshman teams out of existence in the early 1990s.

In any case, Young decided he would rather coach the Cornhusker freshmen than continue to pursue the job at Iowa State. And three years later, after his teams won 14 of 15 games, he replaced Fischer as an offensive line and kickers coach, with responsibility for in-state recruiting.

Although he couldn't have imagined he would end up at Nebraska, Young planned to be a coach almost from the time he left the family farm near Primrose, Neb., and enrolled at Kearney State College, where his football playing career ended after his freshman season.

He tried to play offensive line but his size negated his enthusiasm. So he passed the officials' test and offici-

ated high school athletics during the remainder of his time at Kearney State.

But his goal was to become a coach, almost from the day he enrolled.

"We were having some pretty hard times on the farm, with a drought," he said.

"When I went to college, my main motivation was to get an occupation where I didn't have to go through what my dad went through, seeing crops dry out, something where you didn't have to work your butt off, and then, at the end, everything gets dried up because it doesn't rain."

Initially, he wanted to become a basketball coach. But that quickly changed.

With only five on a side, a basketball coach has less control than a football coach over what happens. "You can coach your butt off, and one guy comes in and starts hitting 20-footers while you've got guys missing lay-ups and there's nothing you can do about it," said Young.

"In football, the things you did in practice were things that also were more likely to happen in games. In basketball, the things you did in prac-

tice, didn't happen that way in games."

His first coaching job was at Barneston, Neb., High. The school needed a football coach and had teaching openings in mathematics, biology and physical education. The fit was perfect. Young's major at Kearney State was physical education, and he had minors in math and biology.

His eight-man football teams at Barneston rarely lost during his three seasons. Then he left for St. Paul, Neb., High, where he was an assistant football coach in 1965. After one year there, he went to Omaha, turning down a chance to become the head football coach at St. Paul High.

The principal who hired him at St. Paul was going to Omaha and asked him to come along. Young spent four years as the head football coach at Omaha's Valley View Junior High, then moved to Westside, where he was a football assistant and junior varsity baseball coach until 1977.

He grew up playing baseball, on American Legion teams and town teams.

While he was still considering his career options in coaching, "I thought

about being a baseball coach," he said. "But the schools I started out with were small enough that they didn't have baseball programs. And the summertime programs in those small towns were established by guys that had been in the community for a while, so I couldn't coach summer baseball."

In some ways, he focused on football by default. But he hasn't regretted it.

"The worst part is all the time you put in to get things done," Young said.

"It's just a lot of time away from home and a lot of time that other dads spend with their kids growing up.

"That was even maybe true on the high school level." But the positives outweigh the negatives, meeting "great people" and the "great kids you get a chance to coach."

Plus, Nebraska is "one of the elite (football) programs," he said. "You get respect wherever you go. This is probably as good of a place as there is in the country."

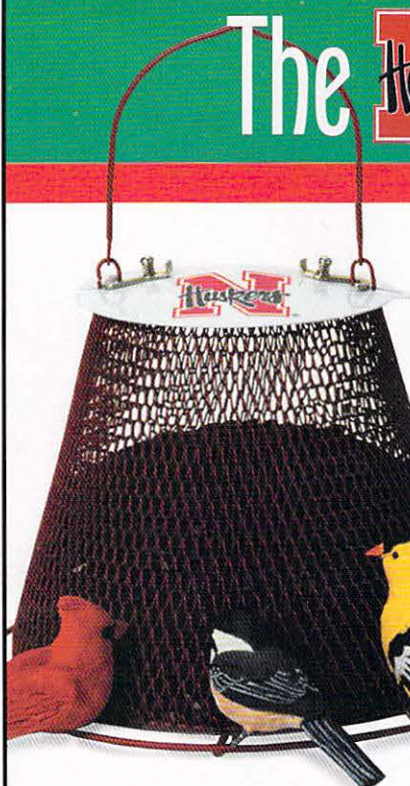
He wanted a recommendation for Iowa State. And he ended up with a job. ■

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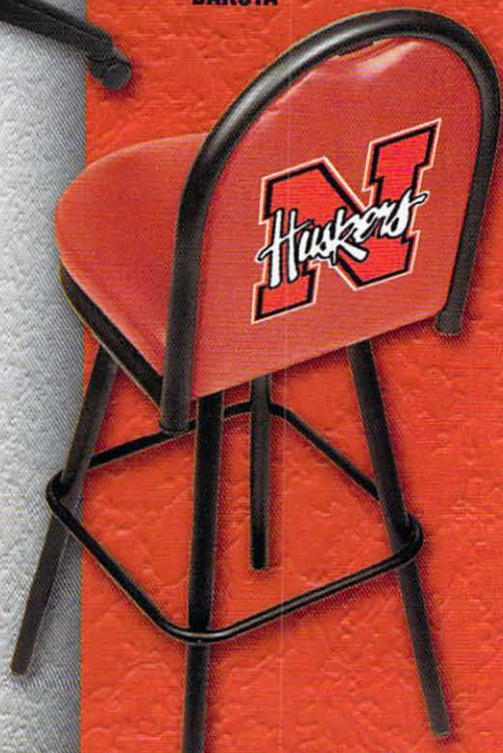
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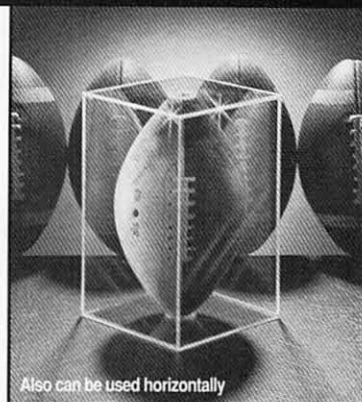
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A Year Later

Practice against All-Americans helped NU's Elmer get ready for prime time

By Todd Henrichs

Every day of last season, Melissa Elmer was pitted against a pair of All-Americans.

Teammates Amber Holmquist and Jenny Kropp were Elmer's orientation to college volleyball, her more-than-six-foot-tall measuring sticks in a predictably long redshirt season. Elmer went up against Nebraska's starting middle blockers in every practice.

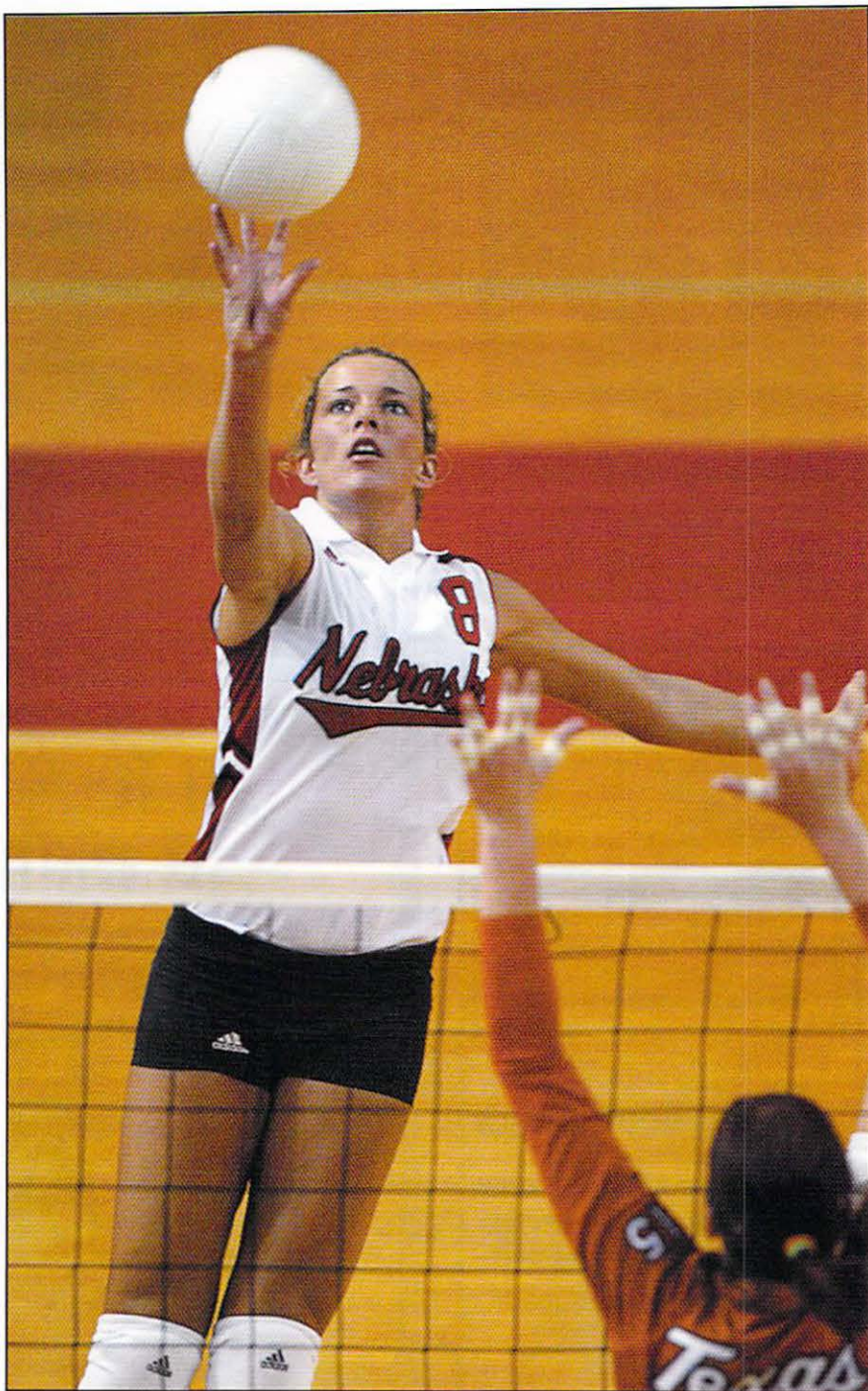
Now a year later, Elmer is contributing for a title-contending Nebraska team in a starting role. Looking back, Elmer says her year in the shadows was invaluable in preparing for this season.

"It was a lot of little things, little techniques that needed to be fixed in order to be able to adjust to the college game," Elmer said.

Her fellow middle blockers deserve much of the credit. "They were always there to help me every time I had a question. I don't think I would have come this far without them."

Not even halfway through her freshman season, Elmer was already drawing rave reviews from her coaches, teammates and even some of the top names in the game.

Southern Cal Coach Mick Haley, who for four years coached the U.S. National Team, raved over Elmer's athletic ability and said "she's going



Redshirt freshman Melissa Elmer was averaging over more than two kills a game through her first 13 matches.

to be a wonderful kid in the middle."

Team captain Lindsay Wischmeier has watched Elmer develop from the first day she walked into the

Coliseum a year ago and can measure an upswing in confidence after she stepped into Kropp's vacated starting spot this season.

"She's become a lot more vocal out on the court, more aggressive," Wischmeier said. "You can just tell Elmer wants to be great."

Elmer's learning curve didn't swoon in the offseason. This summer, she accepted an invitation to play with several college players considered long-term national team prospects by USA Volleyball.

Elmer trained for two weeks with the likes of Ogonna Nnamani of Stanford, who made second team All-American in her freshman season. She further developed her movement, quickness, vision, arm swing and the variety of her shots.

"I got to play with all the great college players my age," Elmer said. "It was awesome. I loved it."

Nebraska coaches love the raw potential in Elmer. At Northrop High School in Fort Wayne, Ind., Elmer also starred in basketball and track and field. In volleyball, she was an all-state pick and was named all-tournament at the 2001 Junior Olympic Championships.

In Elmer, Nebraska Coach John Cook sees a "big-time arm" that

could develop into one of the top attacking middle blockers ever to play at Nebraska.

Through her first 13 matches, Elmer was averaging over more than two kills a game while hitting .374, an efficiency rating that would break NU's all-time freshman record.

Still improving as a blocker, Elmer was on pace for more than 100 in her first season. Her hard-to-handle serve had already netted 11 aces.

Elmer said she's still trying to find her rhythm with setter Greichaly Cepero.

"I like fast sets," she said. "I like them when they're right in front of me. It gives me a lot of options."

"When I get the high sets, I tend to lose track. I kind of start watching, and I forget to speed up a little bit."

After a few "bad practices" before the season, Elmer said everything began to click. And although her debut came in a tournament at Ball State, not far from her Indiana home, Elmer wasn't outwardly rattled.

She had eight kills and eight blocks against Ball State, then produced six kills on only 11 swings

against the defensive wizards of USC.

"I've never ever been that nervous before," Elmer said. "The adrenaline was really pumping, but I played a lot better than I thought."

"When we got to the better teams, like USC and Arizona and Pepperdine, it really showed some more things I needed to work on. I just need to stay consistent."

From the first match of the season, their teammates — including four senior starters — say Elmer and first-year starter Jennifer Saleaumua don't seem like freshmen.

Saleaumua took advantage of joining the Huskers last spring and having a chance to train with the team through the summer.

Elmer is thankful for her year in the program, and with Saleaumua could be the difference as Nebraska pursues another national championship.

"There could be something to it that your freshmen are oblivious to everything," Cook said. "Maybe we ought to tell everybody that they're freshman again." ■

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3 Quarterbacks at top of List

Finley, Zbikowski, Jackson all have Nebraska high on their lists

By Doug Horwich

The decision to redshirt freshman Curt Dukes gives Nebraska a promising young quarterback prospect with eligibility through the 2006 season. However, the Husker staff would like to add another prospect to the mix in the 2003 recruiting class, and three high school seniors are receiving the bulk of their attention.

Multi-talented Joe Jon Finley (6-foot-6, 210 pounds, 4.8 in the 40-yard dash) from Arlington High School in Arlington, Texas, was previewed here in April. Now well into his senior season, Finley is being recruited by a number of top programs around the country, and Nebraska continues to be among his favorites.

"Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Arizona,



Quarterback Joe Jon Finley of Arlington, Texas, continues to list Nebraska among his favorites. His older brother Clint was a Husker defensive back from 1997-2000.

Arkansas, Nebraska and Ohio State are probably the schools I'm thinking about the most right now," Finley said. "Oklahoma is only three hours away, and they like to throw the ball. Wisconsin, Arizona and Arkansas have all shown me that they want me really bad. My brother played at Nebraska; I know the coaches there, and I know their offensive system. I'm also interested in Ohio State."

While some schools are recruiting Finley as a quarterback, including Nebraska, others view him as either a tight end or defensive end at the next level and have little interest in him as a quarterback. Fortunately for the Huskers, Finley strongly prefers the

quarterback position and would like to go to a school that truly believes in his abilities there. Coach Turner Gill is recruiting Finley for Nebraska and has made it clear that the Husker staff wants him as a quarterback.

Finley has watched Nebraska closely this season and is unfazed by the team's recent struggles. "I don't know," he said. "You know that they are normally going to be good and be contenders. I don't think that they are going to be down for too long."

Another quarterback prospect previewed in April who is still on Nebraska's radar is Tommy Zbikowski (6-1, 190, 4.4) from Buffalo Grove High School in Buffalo Grove, Ill. Few athletes around the country have received as much interest as Zbikowski has this year.

"I'm up to 35 offers now," he said. "Cincinnati, Boston College and Virginia have been the latest schools to offer me."

Like Finley, Zbikowski is receiving attention from top programs around the country at positions other than quarterback. However, unlike Finley, Zbikowski is somewhat ambivalent regarding his future position.

"I'm still pretty open that way," he said. "For Nebraska or Northwestern, I'd probably play quarterback because their systems suit my offensive style. At other schools, I'd probably play defensive back. I'm interested in going somewhere where I'll have a chance to play relatively early and a place that has good, solid academics."

Zbikowski attended Nebraska's summer camp with his father, and both came away extremely impressed.

"The best thing that we heard from Nebraska was that they were very impressed with Tommy's arm strength and his throwing," Ed

Nebraska Commitments for 2003

Player	Hometown (school)	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.
Greg Austin	Cypress, Texas	6-2	275	OL
Andy Birkel	Lincoln (Southeast), Neb.	6-3	180	WR
Steve Craver	Hurst, Texas	6-2	195	DB/LB
Josh Mueller	Columbus (Lakeview), Neb.	6-7	250	TE
*Trevor Neeman	Lincoln (Southeast), Neb.	6-3	225	TE/DE
*Kade Pittman	North Platte, Neb.	6-0	190	RB/DB
Bo Ruud	Lincoln (Southeast), Neb.	6-3	210	LB
Brandon Teamer	Omaha (Central), Neb.	6-5	256	DE

*scheduled to enter school in the fall of 2002 as part-time students and receive scholarships in January 2003.

Zbikowski said. "Watching Tommy work with coach Turner Gill of Nebraska was enjoyable to me. How often can a kid be on the same practice field with Turner Gill, Scott Frost and Coach (Frank) Solich at the same time?"

"Nebraska may have the best facilities in the entire country. It is, indeed, a football factory down there. You can easily tell you are among greatness when you visit down there. They have everything carefully thought out and orchestrated — the academic support, the nutrition, the counseling, the strength training.

The elder Zbikowski said he was impressed with the way the Nebraska players practiced on their own.

"We watched them a couple of days — working out on their own," he said. "It was like a ballet. It was beautiful. They were all in unison. Some were running stairs, some were running through drills — there were different stations. They do it on their own there. It really says a lot for their program."

Zbikowski has Nebraska right at the top of his list, though Notre Dame is recruiting him as a free safety and has been pressuring him to commit early. However, Zbikowski has no intention of rushing the process and is unlikely to make a decision any time soon.

Another player who attended Nebraska's summer camp is Bernard Jackson (6-2, 195, 4.6) from Santiago High School in Corona, Calif. Jackson put on an impressive show at the Husker camp, and the Nebraska staff is hot on his trail. Despite living in Pac-10 country, Jackson has his eye on Big 12 powers Nebraska, Kansas State and Colorado.

Bernard's brother Brian acts as his legal guardian and plans to travel with him on all three of his official visits.

"We've got visits set up to all the schools that have offered Bernard," his brother said. "We go to Nebraska on Oct. 12, Kansas State on Oct. 19, and to Colorado on Oct. 26. That makes for a very busy three weeks, but that's a good thing. It will allow us to get our three major visits done and allow us to make a decision by early November."

Brian Jackson is hoping that his presence on the visits will help to prevent the type of impulse decision that has become commonplace among recruits recently.

"I'm going to see to it that I keep him structured," he said. "He came from a situation where there wasn't a

Huskers Shopping in Big Ten Country

By Rick Shaw

Nebraska is leaving no stone unturned in its search for talent to add to the recruiting class of 2003.

In addition to the bounty rich areas of California and Texas, Husker coaches are hitting the Big Ten states hard this fall with hopes of bringing a recruit or two home to Lincoln.

— Martin O'Donnell of South High in Downer's Grove, Ill., is one of the nation's finest offensive line prospects. The 6-foot-5, 290-pound blue-chipper is rated by Rivals.com as the top offensive tackle prospect in the country. That same recruiting service rates O'Donnell as the No. 13 prospect (at any position).

Nebraska obviously thinks highly of O'Donnell as well. It was one of the first schools to offer the lineman a scholarship last spring. O'Donnell is reciprocating the interest and has consistently listed Nebraska among his top three teams.

"Nebraska's football tradition is great," O'Donnell said, "and their facilities are really impressive. They have a really good academic support system there."

"I'm pretty confident that I will visit Nebraska along with Illinois and Stanford. I'm looking at Penn State, Oregon, and Iowa as possible other visits. I plan to take all five of my allotted visits before making a decision."

— Another top offensive lineman from Big Ten country, Joe Thomas, is also looking long and hard at spending his college years in Lincoln. The 6-7, 270-pound offensive tackle from Central High in Brookfield, Wis., is considering offers from many of the top schools in the country. He was scheduled to take his first official visit of the recruiting season on Oct. 12, when he traveled to Lincoln to watch the Huskers take on Missouri.

"Nebraska's tradition is great," Thomas said. "Besides Notre Dame, they have the best tradition of any other school. They have a great offensive linemen tradition, too."

Thomas may be one of the nation's most athletic offensive line prospects. He ran consistent 4.8 40-yard dash times at camps last summer. Some schools, including Nebraska, have even indicated that they may try him out at tight end. Colorado, Iowa, Notre Dame, Purdue, Southern California, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Northwestern are some of the other schools in hot pursuit of Thomas.

— Doug Van Dyke of Marshall High in Marshall, Mich., is one of the nation's top defensive end prospects. The 6-4, 250-pounder was a first team all state player as a junior. After six games this season, Van Dyke had already amassed 40 tackles, including six sacks and 14 tackles for loss, and caused two fumbles.

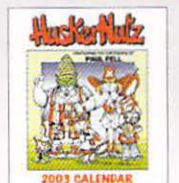
Van Dyke has offers from every school in the Big Ten, in addition to Nebraska, LSU, and a few others. Van Dyke currently has the Huskers in his top five and plans a winter visit to Lincoln.

"I've always liked Nebraska a lot," he said. "They've got an awesome program. They've had some great defenses down there through the years. As far as this year, I'm not concerned about Nebraska's slow start. I know they'll bounce back and have a solid year again next year." ■

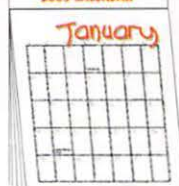
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lot of structure, and I laid that all out for him. It's really helped him with his academics and his life. I want to make sure that wherever he goes, he's in a tight, structured environment. For example, I want to find a place that has a tightly structured academic support program for the athletes."

Despite playing an active role in the decision-making process, Brian Jackson said he will not stand in the way of his brother's wishes.

"I'll have my input, but it will be Bernard's decision," he said. "I'll ask questions and help equip Bernard with the tools to make that decision, but I want him to make it. It's going to be four or five years of his life."

Nebraska has been in frequent contact with Jackson, and the Huskers

have made a good early impression.

"Bernard and Coach Gill have built this tremendous rapport," Brian Jackson said. "That's a real good thing because Bernard isn't a real open kid. He takes the initiative to call and talk to Coach Gill. In my opinion, Coach Gill has done a great job of representing Nebraska and recruiting Bernard. Solich is the only head coach we've spoke to thus far. We've been very impressed with him also."

"We are looking for the best situation for Bernard. He wants to play early. It looks like with Nebraska, he may not even have to redshirt and could compete for a backup spot or even better as a freshman. Kansas State has younger quarterbacks. He'd



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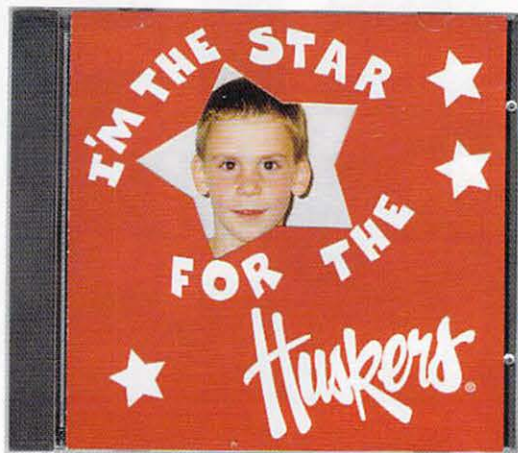


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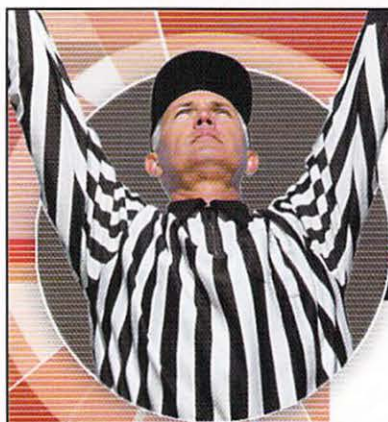
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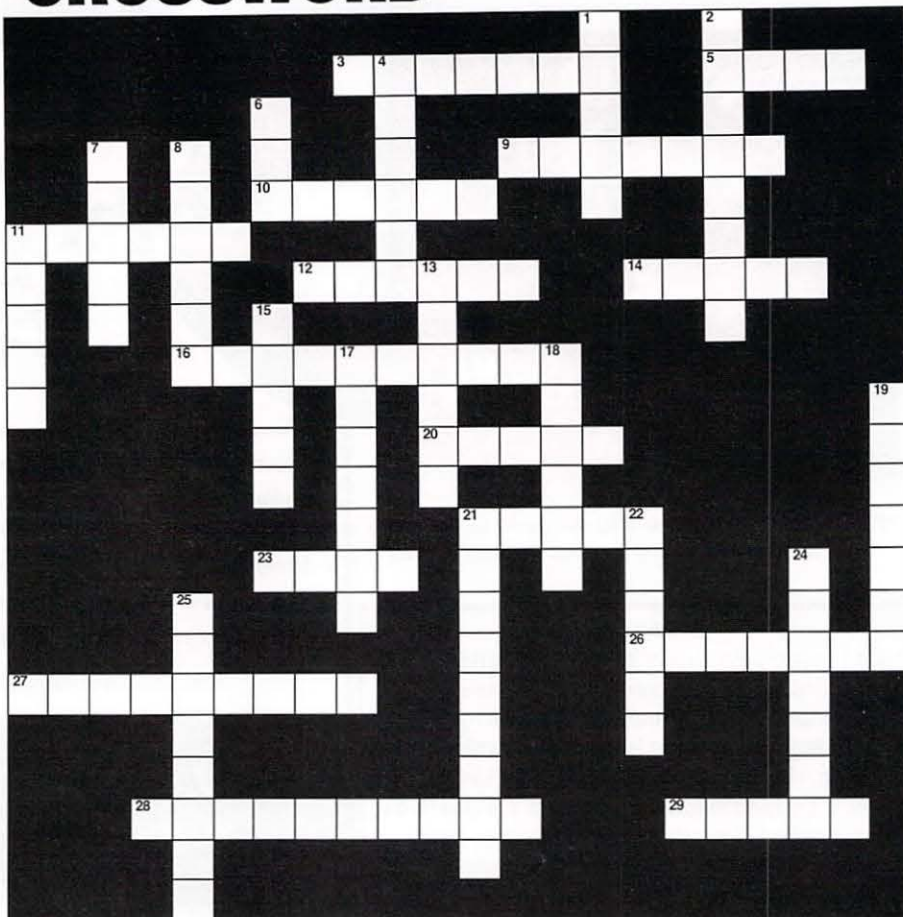
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- 5 Ryon Bingham's home state
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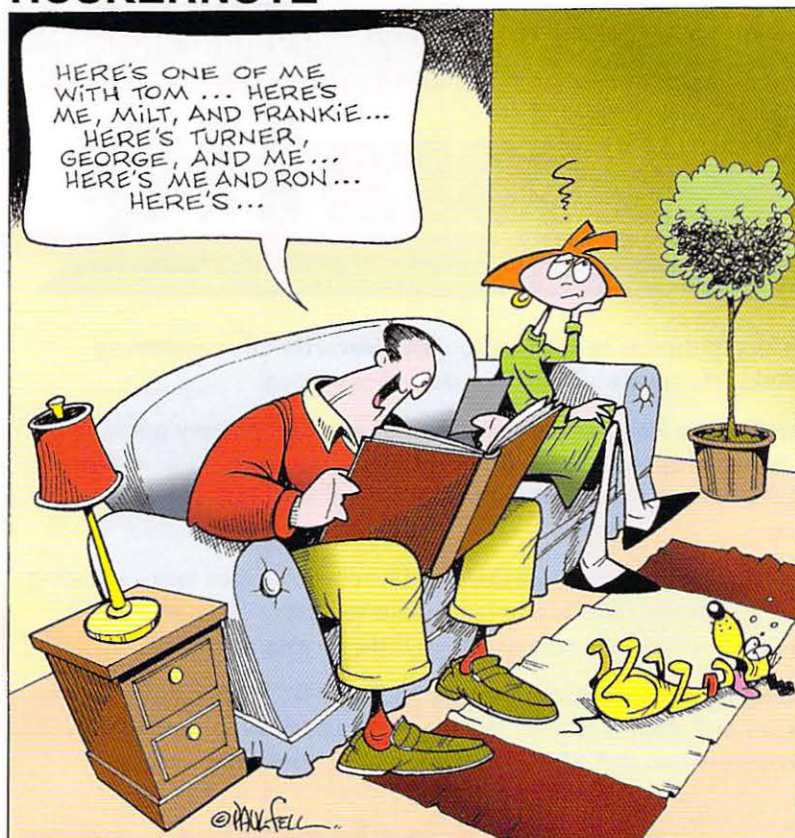
DOWN

- 1 NU kickers coach
- 2 NU's twins
- 4 Chris Kelsay's hometown
- 6 Network for NU-Colorado game
- 7 NU true freshman I-back
- 8 NU's leading receiver vs. McNeese State
- 11 NU receiver coach
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- 15 2001 national champion
- 17 Ran 64 yards for TD vs. McNeese State
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- 19 NU's No. 1 (offense)
- 21 NU's No. 1 (defense)
- 22 Texas A&M head coach
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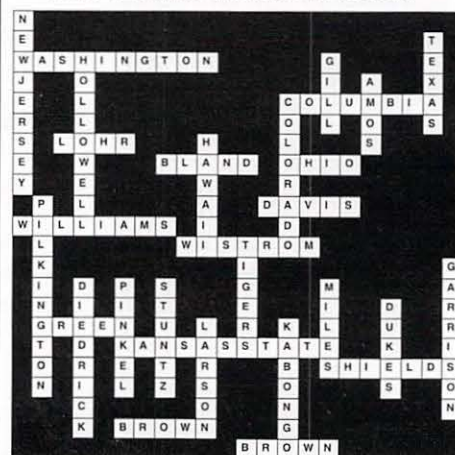
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Signed: Brian Hill, General Manager/Editor

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Gaining Confidence

Nebraska's defense focuses on things it does well



Mike BABCOCK

A FRIDAY MEETING conducted by captains Chris Kelsay and DeJuan Groce provided the impetus to Nebraska's defensive effort in a 24-13 victory against Missouri.

But the turning point in this season for Scott Shanle and the other linebackers might have been a meeting that took place early in the week before the McNeese State game.

The linebackers met before practice to watch videotape of the previous day's practice, as they always do, with their position coach, defensive coordinator Craig Bohl. Instead of watching the tape, however, they ended up spending the better part of an hour discussing the season to that point.

Bohl asked them how they felt about what had happened in the first five games. "He talked to every guy," Shanle said. "And everybody had a chance to ask questions."

"We just laid it out there and talked about it."

The meeting wasn't confrontational, just the opposite. "It was really laid back, like we were all in one of our living rooms, sitting there watching TV, talking," said Shanle.

If someone questioned why things were done, "you got a reason."

Shanle described the linebackers meeting following practice on the Monday before the Missouri game. "I'll tell you what, that made me feel so much better," he said. "The next day, I told Coach Bohl, 'That helped more than I thought it would.' I think it helped a lot of guys."

As with the other seniors, Shanle has been frustrated by what has happened this season. After the losses at Penn State and Iowa State, "it would be easy to say, 'Gosh, we're not that good,'" he said. "But I never looked at it that way. It was frustrating. I don't want to say I didn't get frustrated."

"But when I look around at this team, it's not like we don't have athletes."

And that realization "has kept me confident about this group."

Shanle's confidence wasn't misplaced against Missouri.

During the second half, in particular, the Blackshirts played with the controlled aggression that has been their trademark.

After struggling much of the time in the first six games, they dominated an offense that by all accounts was well above average, directed by redshirted freshman Brad Smith, whom senior cornerback DeJuan Groce described afterward as a "worst-nightmare quarterback."

"I knew he was good from the get-go," said Groce.

That his statistics didn't support such an assessment said more about Nebraska's defense than they did about Smith, who will pose a predicament for Big 12 defenses for three more seasons.

Though the media inclination was to compare Smith to Iowa State's Seneca Wallace, each posed different problems and required different defensive schemes. One thing the Cornhuskers did learn from dealing with Wallace, however, was to not try to be "somebody we're not," Bohl said.

"There are certain things we can do well." And they focused on those things.

The defense has been simplified in recent weeks. "We've gone back and found out what we do well, what the players in our system do well, and that's what we've been running," said Shanle.

"I'm very confident in what we're doing."

The performance against Missouri will "ratchet" that confidence up, according to Bohl. "You see a pretty confident defense," he said. "We saw that coming. There has been just a blue-collar, hard-nosed work attitude. They've been practicing very hard. We've had very physical practices."

Many of the defensive problems against Iowa State, in particular, were self-created, Shanle said. "We shot ourselves in the foot far too many times. No matter how good of athletes you have, you can't shoot yourself in the foot like that. You've got to play smart football, and things will happen for you."

The defense played smart against Missouri, and good things happened, as many expected when the season began. Defense and special teams were supposed to keep the Cornhuskers

afloat while an inexperienced offense, directed by an inexperienced quarterback, matured.

But that hadn't really been the case until the Missouri game.

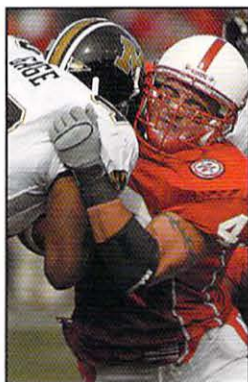
"There have been times when we've shown flashes of being a very good defensive football team, but we have not quite put it together the way we would like," said Solich.

By the second half of the Missouri game, the defense was putting it together.

"So they've got to be greatly encouraged by that," Solich said.

"I think they understand the capabilities of what kind of defense they can be when everybody's in tune with one another and it's all working well."

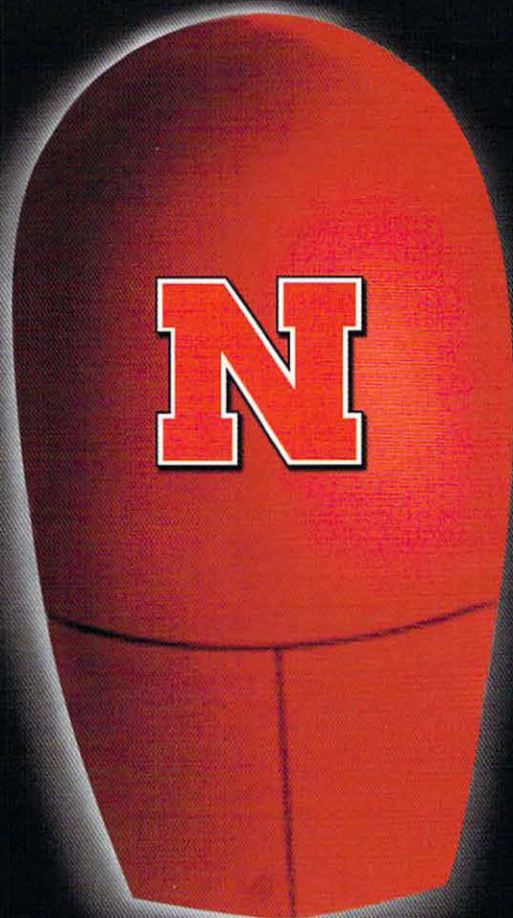
In Shanle's case, a couple of meetings have made the difference. ■



NU linebacker Scott Shanle wraps up MU receiver Justin Gage.

Mike Babcock is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for more than 20 years. Mike can be reached at MumblyDog@aol.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.

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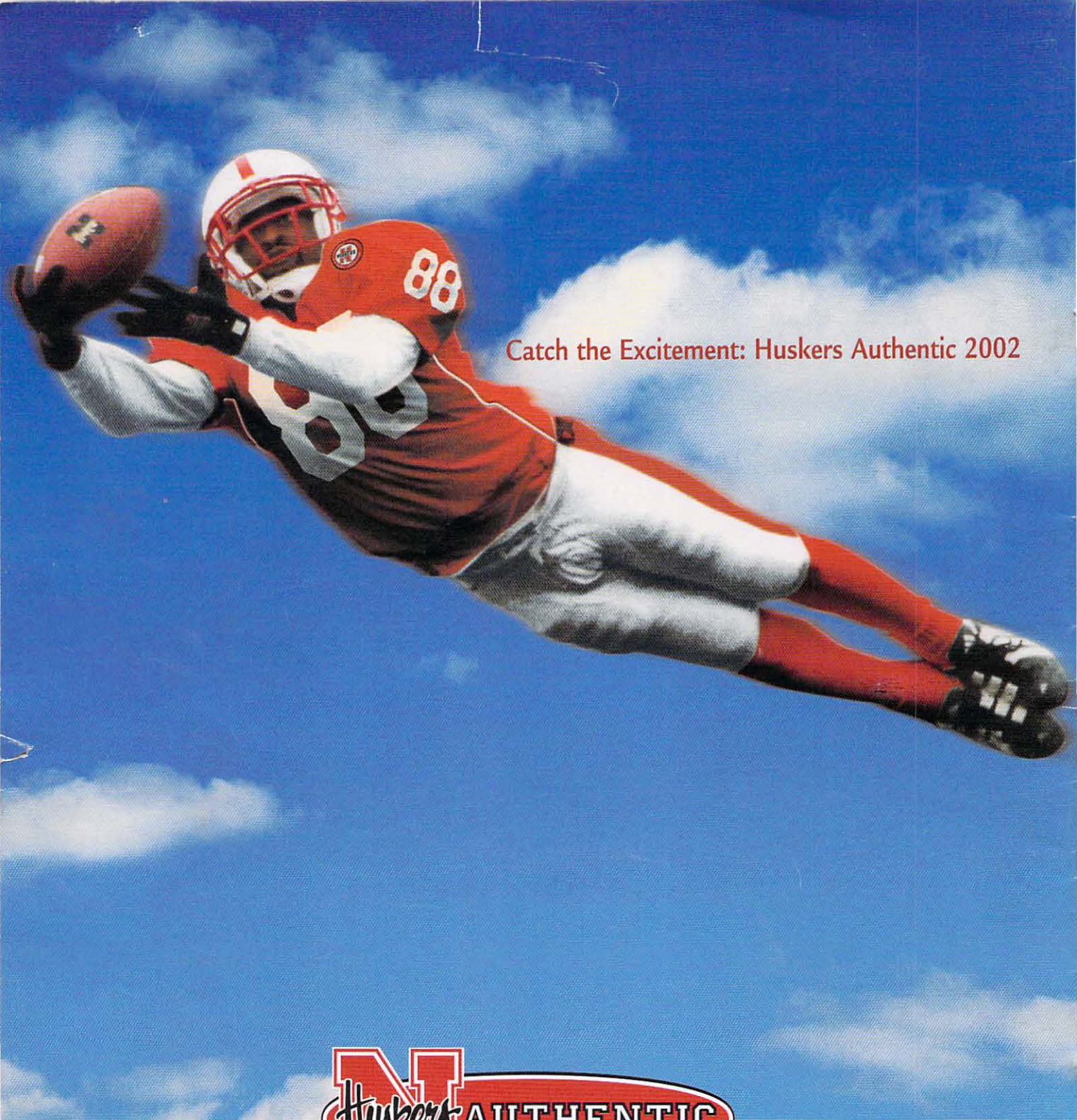
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